THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 960. LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1846. PRICE FOURPENCE (Stamped Edition, 5d.)

For the convenience of Subscribers residing in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazines.—Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than Three Months, and in advance, are received by M. BAUDRY, 3, Quai Malaquais, Paris, or at the Publishing Office, 14, Wellington-street North, Strand, London. For France and other Countries not requiring the postage to be paid in London, 28 fr. or 11. 2s. the year. To other Countries, the postage in addition.

[JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE.]

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, London.—ELEMENTARY COURSE of BOTANY.

Professor LINDLEY will commence a Course of Lectures on BOTANY to a JUNIOR CLASS, on MONDAY, March 30, at 8 o'clock A.M.—Subjects: The Distinctions between the principal Natural Classes and Orders of Plants belonging to the Flora of Europe.

The Course is adapted for persons commencing the Study of Botany. Fee, 2l.

The Course to the Senior Class will commence on the 1st May.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the College.

C. J. R. WILLIAMS, M.D., Dean of Faculty of Medicine.
A. DE MORGAN, Dean of Faculty of Arts.
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

March 11, 1846.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF CHEMISTRY.—President—His Royal Highness PRINCE ALBERT.
Professor—Dr. HOFMANN.
Assistant Professor—Dr. BLYTH.

The LABORATORY OPENS on the 18th inst. for the 2nd Session, which ends July 31. The method of study pursued is that of Giessen. Every Student works in Analysis by himself under the immediate and constant direction of the Professors, so that a practical knowledge of Chemistry and skill in manipulation are attained simultaneously. Fee for every day during the Session, 2l. 10s.; for 4 days a week, 10l.; for 3 days, 8l.; for 2 days, 6l.; for 1 day in every week, 4l. Materials included.

By order of the Council,
JOHN GARDNER, M.D., Secretary.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The next MEETING of the subscribing Members will be held on FRIDAY, the 3rd of APRIL, at the Rooms of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 25, Great George-street, Westminster.

The subject for special discussion will be—

The Art of Design as applied to the Illumination of Manuscripts, and the peculiarities which mark the productions of each country.

Members who cannot personally attend are invited to forward, by any friend, MSS. which they may consider as likely to bear on the subject.

Archæological Institute Apartments, 12, Haymarket.

Attendance from 12 to 2 daily.

T. HUDSON TURNER, Secretary.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the INSTITUTE will take place at York, under the patronage of his Grace the Archbishop; President, the EARL FITZWILLIAM, commencing TUESDAY, JULY 21st.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY of LONDON.—NOTICE is hereby given, that the EXHIBITION of FLOWERS and FRUIT, in the Society's Garden, in the present season, will take place on the following Saturdays, viz. May 9th, June 13th, and July 11th; and that Tuesday, April 21st, is the last day on which the usual Privileged Tickets are issued to Fellows of the Society.

DECORATIVE ART SOCIETY.—Wednesday, 25th March. CONVERSAZIONE.—Considerations, having reference to Ornament, upon religious Symbolism; Historical Records of Manners, Ceremonies, &c.; Archetypes discoverable in Nature, the initiatory treatment and subsequent Applications to Decorative Art.

E. C. LAUGHER, Hon. Sec.
17, Sussex-place, Kensington.

ART-UNION of LONDON, 4, Trafalgar-square, Charing-cross; by Authority of Parliament.
President—H.R.H. the DUKE of CAMBRIDGE.

The LIST for the current year will CLOSE on the 31st instant. Subscribers will receive for each guinea paid, besides the chance of obtaining a valuable work of Art, an impression of a line engraving by Mr. P. Lightfoot, from the picture by Mr. H. O'Neil, 'Jephtha's Daughter;' and, in addition to this, a series of designs in outline, made expressly for the Society by Mr. G. F. Hicks, illustrative of Campbell's 'Gertrude of Wyoming.'

GEORGE GODWIN, } Honorary
LEWIS POCOCK, } Secretaries.

NEW CLUB.—12, George Street, Hanover Square.—A New Club is in course of formation at the Mansion now occupied as the British and Foreign Hotel. A List of the Committee and of the Members already enrolled may be seen at the above address. The number of Members is limited, and the admissions will be by ballot of the Committee. The present terms are as follows:—

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S. SMILES, Secretary.

SIGNOR ROSTERI, Professor of the Italian Language and Literature, begs to inform his Friends and Pupils that he has just returned from Rome, and he is now resuming his professional duties in PRIVATE LESSONS, and also forming a New Class, at his residence.—Address at Rolandi's Foreign Library, 20, Berners-street, Oxford-street, where his Elementary Works may be had.

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GREAT CHORAL MEETING—EXETER HALL.—The THIRD GREAT CHORAL MEETING of Mr. Hullah's Upper Singing Schools, in aid of the Hullah Testimonial Fund for the Erection of a Music Hall, will be held on THURSDAY EVENING, April 9.

Tickets—Reserved Seats, 5*s.*; Western Gallery, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Area, 1*s.*, may be had of Mr. Parker, Publisher, 445, West Strand.

MUSICAL UNION.—Amateurs of Instrumental Chamber Music, eligible to become Members of this Society, are requested to send their names to the Treasurers, Messrs. Cramer, Beale & Co. 201, Regent-street.

The FIRST MEETING will take place at the Princess's Concert Rooms, on TUESDAY, the 31st March, at half-past 3 o'clock. Annual Subscription One Guinea. Tickets not transferable.—The tickets are already sent to the Members.

J. ELLA, Director.

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EDINBURGH REVIEW, No. CLXVIII.—ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in No. 168 of The Edinburgh Review, are requested to be sent to the Publishers by Saturday next; and BILLS on or before Tuesday, the 31st instant.

39, Paternoster-row, March 21, 1846.

NEW CIRCULATING LIBRARY, 141, Regent-street, near New Burlington-street.—MICHAEL COOMES begs to announce he has opened a New Library on an extensive scale, and solicits the attention of the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public, to his Terms of Subscription, which may be had or sent, postage free, on application at 141, Regent-street.

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Messrs. EVANS will SELL, at their Rooms, No. 106, New Bond-street, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, March 25,

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Mr. FLETCHER will SELL by AUCTION, with the approbation of William Brougham, Esq., one of the Masters of the High Court of Chancery, pursuant to an Order of the said Court, at his Great Room, 191, Piccadilly, on MONDAY, March 23, and 5 following days, at 1 o'clock precisely,

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LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, Fleet-street, next St. Dunstan's Church, March 14, 1846.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the BOOKS for transferring Shares in this Society will be CLOSED on Thursday the 26th inst. and will be Re-opened on Thursday, the 9th day of April next.

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Narratives of Remarkable Criminal Trials. Translated from the German of Anselm Ritter von Feuerbach. By Lady Duff Gordon. Murray.

THE original work of Anselm von Feuerbach, from which this volume contains a selection of cases, is of great reputation throughout Germany. Himself of high eminence in his own country (Bavaria), of whose penal code he is the framer, —president, for years, of its highest criminal court,—and a writer of undisputed authority on its criminal jurisprudence,—his public life had fulfilled most of the conditions calculated to attract notice to this his final work. But, greatly enhancing the authority of these, came the mental character of the man. Passing, in his progress to the supreme honours of his profession, by the office of *Untersuchungs Richter*, or examining judge, a mind of extraordinary natural acuteness and penetration was exercised in the appreciation of circumstance, and the chase of human motive through all the intricacies amid which it hides, as probably only the mind of a German *Untersuchungs Richter* can. To look below the act for the principle, and behind the mask for the man, became the habit of his life. As the practised husbandman, whose interest has made him a watcher of the heavens, sees indications of the tempest where, to the eye of the careless or inexperienced observer, all seems clear,—or reads in the "cloud no bigger than a man's hand" a pregnant cause and a stormy consequence,—so, facts and circumstances slight and inexpressive to the common apprehension projected on his clear and accustomed mind the shadow of a crime. To his detective faculty, "trifles light as air" became "confirmation strong" almost as the confession which ultimately confirmed them for others. On his prepared intellect guilt recorded its outlines the finest and most minute, as on a Daguerréotype. Like the secrets written with "sympathetic ink," the hidden characters of offence came out in the heat of his inquiry.—Nor was the analytic power with which he reasoned on the indication less remarkable. The clue of which he once got hold he followed through all its course, however tortuous and labyrinthine. As in the case of the sensitive and well-trained hound, the fine natural instincts of the man, heightened by the teaching of his craft, followed surely on a scent insensible to others. One of his Criminal Instructions forms a curious study. Let him only strike upon a stream, however narrow, of evidence, and it was down at once in his map,—and himself away, beating about unknown ground in search of springs to feed it. Wherever a fact or a suspicion welled up, in his inquiry, he led it carefully in the same direction. The merest drop had its value in this system of accumulation; and the first slender thread of inference gradually swelled, under his conduct, into an overwhelming tide of proof which finally swept away denial or defence in its irresistible current. The system of Bavarian criminal instruction, administered by a genius like Feuerbach's, resembles nothing so much, in some of its instances, as the complicated web of merest filaments which the spider weaves to ensnare its victims. In others, the guilty object of the law's suspicion reminds us of the prisoner in the tale, who saw the walls of his dungeon daily contract around him, and watched with a species of fascination the gradually diminishing space within which he was to be crushed at last. A psychologist of this class bespoke, by the mere announcement, great curiosity for a work in which he incorporated his philosophy; and the popular interest of such narratives themselves, apart from the psychology, enhanced the feeling among his countrymen. To Englishmen, the book has yet another quality of attraction; as exponent of a state of criminal law so widely differing from our own—systematically founded upon principles which we systematically reject,—some of them not unworthy of our re-consideration, but leading to remarkable anomalies and inconsistencies among themselves.

Of these self-inconsistencies, the most striking is the tenderness of Bavarian law for human life, and its reckless and wasteful dealing with human feeling and human freedom:—its reluctance to apply the highest penalty in its code even to the guilty, and its lavish application of a torture nearly intolerable to men who may possibly be innocent. The existence at all of such a penalty as death in the code, so ingeniously and elaborately fenced in as to make it nearly unapproachable, is, itself, a species of inconsistency; and it is a still more ingenious result that, out of this very system of defences spring the minor encroachments as a consequence,—that this regard for the prisoner's life is made to necessitate and justify the system by which he is tortured.—In the first place, according to the common law of Germany, the proof of a murder having been committed must be confirmed by the confession of the murderer, before sentence of death can follow. Then, of the witnesses who might be called to give this proof there is a certain category—not greatly differing from those disqualified by the English law—who are deemed incompetent; and another classed as suspicious witnesses, the value of whose testimony would with us be left to the appreciation of juries, but is in Bavaria expressed by a mathematical figure. The evidence of two *sufficient* witnesses, as to facts which they have seen with their own eyes, is taken as proof—that of one witness as half-proof. The testimony of two *suspicious* witnesses, if agreeing, is equal to that of one sufficient witness. Thus, one sufficient witness confirmed by two suspicious ones, or four suspicious witnesses agreeing amongst themselves, make proof. When the evidence, according to this rule, amounts to proof on each side, the accused is to have the benefit of the equilibrium. The whole process of valuation is mathematical—a striking out, as it were, of co-efficients on either side. So, if there be two sufficient witnesses for the accusation, and two suspicious ones for the defence, the two latter neutralize one of the former,—leaving one, or half-proof, on the side of the charge. One competent witness and two suspicious ones would have neutralized each other; while the testimony of three competent, opposed by two suspicious, witnesses, would have remained full proof in spite of the latter.—Circumstantial evidence amounts to proof when all the *facts* are *fully proved* by witnesses, and cannot be reasonably accounted for except on the supposition of the prisoner's guilt. If any other explanation be possible, the evidence is deemed imperfect; yet when the circumstantial evidence is complete, the conviction of the prisoner, in cases of capital offence, is not necessarily followed by sentence of death—not, as Lady Duff Gordon states, "*unless* he confess his crime," but—even where his own confession is added. For this correction, we will refer Lady Gordon to the case of Riembauer,—one of the most extraordinary related in her own volume. An essential part of the proof in cases of murder, in Bavaria, is the *That-bestand*, or *corpus delicti;* without which all other evidence, however cumulative, is inferential and incomplete. Here, the body, —answering the description of the murdered woman as given by the witnesses,—found on the spot where they deposed that it had been buried —was identified by the subsequent confession of the murderer himself; yet the independent proof of the *That-bestand* was imperfect. On the skeleton, which had lain six years in the damp earth, the marks of violence were no longer to be traced; and so, the body did not contain, in itself and apart from all other testimony, the proof of a murder. There was nothing to show that the subject there lying might not have died a natural death, save the extraneous evidence of proved circumstance—which was clear and overwhelming enough for anything short of a technical rule like this. And therefore, in the case of this notorious murderer, where the facts had been proved and the confession made, the penalty incurred was only imprisonment for life.—There would seem, it is true, from Feuerbach's text, to be some sort of qualification to the absolute character of this prescription; but the language is uncertain—and we are unable to decide, from it, whether, in the reasons assigned for the leniency of Riembauer's sentence, the second is given as an additional one or only as a necessary part of the first.

It is obvious that, in this system, the confession of the prisoner becomes an important object of all the proceedings; and the means taken to obtain it constitute that species of prolonged inquisitorial torture to which we have alluded, as not only offering a strange contrast with other principles of the same code, but directly at variance with the theory of law as interpreted by ourselves. But the striking varieties between the German reading and our own exist in every feature of the process. We are met by some of these at the very outset.—In England, the most absurd precautions are taken to prevent a prisoner from criminating himself. The truth of the matter being, it may be presumed, what is wanted, his mouth is yet forcibly stopped whenever there seems any chance of arriving at the truth by his means. In Bavaria, the whole of the case is endeavoured to be extorted from the prisoner himself.—In England, a trial is fixed as to time, final as to issue, and surrounded by technicalities, many of which seem contrived to give the prisoner a chance for escape or furnish a game of skill for the special pleaders. In Bavaria, the proceeding is restricted by no forms, limited by no lapse of years (Riembauer's lasted upwards of five), defeasible by no failure of proof. Riembauer remained in prison till he confessed, underwent upwards of 100 examinations, and furnished the *matériel* for forty-two folio volumes of report.—In England, a man is tried only for the act charged and by the evidence relating to it. All testimony is rejected but what is strictly relevant, and the prisoner is in danger only within the terms of the indictment. In Bavaria, a man is tried for the crime of to-day by the evidence of all his life. Facts collateral and facts antecedent are sought out, to furnish moral inference. The probabilities for or against his innocence are calculated by figures *out of* the case. Episodes grow from the main question—are tried with the same formalities—and the conclusions brought to bear upon the leading issue.—The process as regards the prisoner is as follows.

So soon as a ground for suspicion is laid against an individual, he is secluded in prison, that the *Untersuchungs Richter* may satisfy himself in his own way. When we say in his own way, we do not mean it to be understood that the proceedings of the judge are not governed by rules,—but that those rules themselves give the latitude which the words convey. Till the year 1806, the torture was, at this point,

applied in its physical shape; and Feuerbach, to whose humane and enlightened exertions its abolition is due, declares that the judges of the old school could never forgive him for having put an end to "so simple, expeditious, and easy a mode of obtaining evidence." They contrived, however, as we have hinted, to replace it by a species of moral torture nearly as bad, and quite as unreasonable. The *Untersuchungs Richter*—at once prosecutor and judge—first proceeds to trace back the prisoner's life to his cradle; and examines witnesses as to his character and disposition, as proofs of tendency. Content with scattered and general notices for the earlier years of the inquiry, every word and deed uttered or done becomes of significance as the scene of the supposed crime is approached. On all or any of these points the prisoner is himself examined, to wring from him a contradiction or a falsehood:—

"He is questioned (says Lady Duff Gordon, in her preface) by the examining judge, in the presence only of a notary employed to take down his replies. The judge begins by exhorting him to tell the truth, hinting that a full confession may soften his punishment. He then asks him whether he knows why he has been arrested; and if the prisoner affects ignorance or gives a false reason, he is again admonished. Should he persist in his assertion the judge closes the examination for that day. At the next examination, he reminds the prisoner of the duty of truth and of the danger of persisting in falsehood; and then begins a series of questions calculated to entrap him into admissions inconsistent with innocence. If, on the other hand, the prisoner states the true cause of his arrest, he is called upon to tell all he knows of the matter. His statement is written down; and the judge afterwards questions him upon every circumstance of his story, important or trifling,—taking care that he shall not, if it can be avoided, perceive which questions are important, and that no time be allowed him to consider his replies. During the inquiry, the prisoner is kept in ignorance of the charge against him; and any endeavour on his part to gain information on the subject is an offence in law. He is not allowed to see a copy of his own evidence or of that of the witnesses. But when the judge has failed to obtain a confession, the prisoner is unexpectedly confronted with one or more of the witnesses against him, or with an accomplice, if there be one, in the hope of surprising him into a confession. Should the prisoner refuse to answer, he is put on a diet of bread and water. In cases of murder, the accused is led to the spot where the crime was committed; and the bleeding corpse, or, it may be, the mouldering remains are suddenly shown to him. Feuerbach remarks, that in cases of infanticide this expedient has never been known to fail; but it is manifest that such terrors can have little or no effect on hardened and resolute criminals."

Meantime, all communication from without is disallowed; all witnesses are examined in the prisoner's absence, and their depositions concealed from his knowledge. The judge is directed by the code to be careful that the questions shall not lead the prisoner to suspect the amount or direction of the evidence against him. Irrelevant questions are, therefore, to be mixed with those which are relevant, and unimportant facts with those which are important,—so that he may not know whether the answer which he is giving is material or not. And these examinations are to be repeated again and again, with a view to detecting a discrepancy in the answers—till the prisoner is driven nearly mad by iteration. His countenance is to be watched as carefully as his words,—the pulses of his anxiety counted by the stop-watch, the weakness of his nerves weighed in the balances, the quality of his endurance estimated by the philosophy, of an examining judge. The *Untersuchungs Richter* is a moral stethoscopist,—sounding the living and trembling thing before him all over, for a diseased motive. All the old wounds of the prisoner's heart are re-opened, to find the quality of the blood—the fading inscriptions of his memory restored, in search of an illustrative word. Shocks are administered to his nerves, to extort the sudden cry of guilt—confrontations and devices of all kinds managed to surprise the wakeful conscience—everything, in fact, done which may make him voluntarily, or ignorantly, or unwarily, his own accuser.—Let us take, from Lady Gordon's text, one of the more dramatic class of incidents in this system of inquisition—as it was employed in the same case of Riembauer:—

"As Riembauer could not be moved by admonition, exhortation, argument, or evidence, the judge attempted to find a way to his conscience through his imagination. The trial had now lasted two whole years; when the judge appointed All Souls' Day, in 1815, the eighth anniversary of the murder, for a new examination, the eighty-eighth in number. It commenced at 4 P.M.; and was intended to convince him, by the overwhelming mass of evidence collected against him, of the inutility of further denial, and to work upon his feelings more powerfully than usual, by admonition and appeal to his recollections. But he remained unmoved as ever. At midnight, the judge, after addressing the accused in most moving language, suddenly raised a cloth, under which lay a skull upon a black cushion. 'This,' said the judge, 'is the skull of Anna Eichstädter, which you may easily recognize by the beautiful teeth.' Riembauer started from his seat, stared wildly at the judge; then smiled in his usual manner, and stepped aside to avoid looking straight into the empty sockets of the eyes,—but quickly recovered himself, and said, pointing to the skull, 'Could this skull speak, it would say, "Riembauer was my friend, not my murderer!"' He added, 'I am calm, and can breathe freely, but I am pained by being exposed to such scenes, and by the charge brought against me. To-morrow' (for Riembauer still asserted that the murder took place on the 3rd November) 'is the anniversary of the day on which, some years ago, at my return from Pirkwang, I found the whole body lying dead in my room, as now I find this skull. As a citizen I ever stand in need of the king's mercy, but not as a criminal.' When the report had been read and signed, the judge again led him up to the skull; which he held before his eyes while he exhorted him to confess. Riembauer betrayed some emotion; but, with his usual hypocritical smile, thus addressed the skull in a solemn tone,—'Oh! if thou couldst but speak, thou wouldst confirm the truth of my assertions.'"

To call a prolonged and ingenious inquisition like this a trial, in any sense which conveys to our insular ideas the figure of a law, seems a mere abuse of terms. With all its absurdities, our own system, which occasionally lets a guilty prisoner escape through the loopholes that the law has provided for him, is a better thing than the tyranny which may be practised under cover of a process that leaves a man in ignorance of the charge he has to meet, and determines, at any expense of mesne imprisonment, to find the guilt it suspects. The pride of art can scarcely fail to mingle in such a game as we have been describing.—For ourselves, we feel no surprise, in view of such an infliction, at what Lady Gordon remarks on as a very striking feature in the records of Feuerbach's experience—the nearly invariable confession obtained from the accused. To an English reader it is strange, no doubt, considering what depends on it; and Feuerbach was himself so much struck by the circumstance that he has devoted a chapter of the original work to an examination of the subject. He finds five motives to this self-condemnation:—*remorse;* the cases of which, however, he considers rare enough to be a phenomenon:—*inability to evade the searching interrogatories of the judge;* a frequent cause, and a flattering tribute to the examiner's fence:—*a desire to escape from the agony of suspense,* and the silent scene of its torment, a prison; a source of common occurrence:—*despair;* the want of nerve to play out the game,—the fascination of the spider, to which we have alluded:—and lastly, *the prisoner's feeling that he is in a great measure in the power of the examining judge.* "He knows," says a writer on the Bavarian code, to whom Lady Duff Gordon has been indebted for the materials of her preface, "that the examiner can aggravate or relax the rigour of his present imprisonment; and that his report must influence the final sentence of the court, and may decide the question of pardon. Whether he makes a confession or not, he expects to be convicted; he sees the judge's eagerness to obtain one,—and he yields, in the hope of propitiating him."—Four of these five reasons, it will be seen, spring out of the terrors of the system. It answers its purpose, then, as contrived for the detection of guilt. But, as with the physical torture of old, do the innocent never come under its question? In any case, we persist in saying that it is dangerous tilting with the conscience,—and, in our English apprehension, an unfair use of the weapon of the law.

Of the feature which gives its greatest interest to the work of Feuerbach, its psychological acumen, we cannot hope to give our readers a notion in anything like the space which we can devote to the purpose. This branch of the subject results so manifestly from the entirety of the case—is so inwoven with its complicated incidents—has such a microscopic power over its minutest details—that no considerable abridgment can render its analytic action. The philosophy of the matter is especially that part of the whole for which the reader must be referred to the original work of the German,—or to the selected cases for which the English public are here indebted to Lady Gordon. All we can do, in the way of illustration, will be to present them with some example of the dramatic incidents which are its frame,—themselves sufficiently picturesque, and necessarily reflecting something of the informing spirit on their mere outward forms. Even of these, the more striking are prohibited to us by their length.—That of Riembauer, so often alluded to, we must reject for this reason—and because it has already been more than once brought before the public, and is familiar, probably, to many of our readers.—One only case—that of the goldsmith, Christopher Rupprecht—is reported in this volume, wherein all the skill of German police was at fault, and the trail irrecoverably lost.—The case of John Paul Forster, who escaped capital punishment in spite of evidence which would have satisfied all the demands of English law, because no confession could be extorted from him, is remarkable for the curious moral constitution of the man and Feuerbach's analytical exhibition of it. There are few more singular narratives in the volume than that of James Thalreuter, the pretended prince; who contrived, in that assumed character, by a long series of fictions and devices (curious in themselves, but far more curious in their success where detection seemed daily imminent), to maintain the confidence, and squander the means, of a worthy couple, the Baron and Baroness Stromwaller, at Landshut, till he had completed their ruin.—The story of the Kleinschrot family is of deep interest—full of the materials of tragedy,—putting in action the same dramatic springs that moved the catastrophe of the Cenci; but it has been brought before the English public by the *Edinburgh Review*, in the notice on the Bavarian Code to which we have already alluded.—Anna Maria Zwanziger is a German Brinvilliers:—and the case of Andrew Bichel, the woman-murderer, for the sake of the victims' clothes, reminds us of the

terrible disclosures which connected systematic murder with trivial motive amongst ourselves in the time of the Burkes.—Such specimens of the book as we can offer must, however, be deferred for a second notice.

Narrative of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, in the year 1842, *and to Oregon and North California in the years* 1843-4. By Captain J. C. Fremont, of the Topographical Engineers, U.S. Wiley & Putnam.

Lecture on Oregon. By the Hon. C. Cushing. Delivered at the Lyceum, Boston, Nov. 1845. Wiley & Putnam.

HERE we have the narrative, in a condensed form, of two expeditions undertaken by order of the American government by one of its own officers. The first extended from the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains only; while the second was carried, not merely to Fort Vancouver, but considerably into North California. Though in every respect,—in the maps, the drawings, and the observations it contains,—it is very far inferior to the work of M. de Mofras, which we have lately noticed, it still affords something entitled to a passing notice, relating as it does to a country of which, vast as the surface is, we yet know very little,—a country which, for ages to come, will not fail to command the attention of the geographer, and to furnish him, through every succeeding traveller, with something new.

Mr. Fremont left the western boundary of the Missouri, between the thirty-ninth and fortieth parallel, North lat., and between the ninety-fourth and ninety-fifth, West long., early in June, 1842. He was attended by about twenty-four men, chiefly Creoles and Canadians,—the latter, better adapted than any other people for the privations and hardships of an overland journey through a trackless, untravelled wilderness. At almost every resting-place he determined, by observation, the position of each; so that we have many new data for the more accurate construction of maps. During the earlier part of the expedition the prairies were, for the most part, firm, as if they had been well-trodden; but when (as was frequently the case) heavy rain descended, and especially when some river had to be crossed, there was difficulty enough. The Indians, too, who regarded all new comers as so many trespassers, were frequently troublesome,—not so much by open hostility (for hundreds of them will scarcely venture to attack a score of well-armed white men), as from their pilfering habits. Sometimes the passage was enlivened by natural incidents. Thus, at the river Kansas:—

"In the steep bank of the river here were nests of innumerable swallows, into one of which a large prairie snake had got about half his body, and was occupied in eating the young birds. The old ones were flying about in great distress, darting at him, and vainly endeavouring to drive him off. A shot wounded him, and being killed, he was cut open, and eighteen young swallows were found in his body."

The buffalo hunt is always animating. At one time the travellers perceived a multitude of these animals, exceeding, we are told, eleven thousand! But this is very uncommon. In general, the animals (which are fast decreasing) herd in bands of one or two hundred, unless (as is sometimes the case,) they are driven into some central spot by the Indians from different points of the compass. White and red men are equally their enemies, and are steadily hastening their entire extinction.

At Fort Laramie, belonging to the American Fur Company, we hear the old story of the demoralization of the Indians by their contact with Christians. Of the sixteen or eighteen men in the fort, nearly all of them had taken to themselves Indian mistresses; and there was, consequently, the usual accompaniment of children,—that is, of young slaves, for not one of them would be held free. Demoralization the second arises from the sale of spirituous liquors by itinerant pedlars, who only ask thirty-six dollars (between seven and eight pounds sterling), for a single gallon! For spirits, says our author, an Indian will part with everything he has on earth,—"his furs, his lodge, his horses, and even his wife and children." The evils resulting from two such fatal sources are great enough to raise a doubt whether civilization gains much by sending the white men amidst the children of the woods,—whether true humanity would not desire, if it were possible, the entire separation of the two races.

Buffalo flesh, however common in some parts, is scarce enough in others, and the Indians are glad to substitute for it that of dogs. White men, too, can sometimes join in the meal. Thus, at the Red Buttes, 135 miles west of Fort Laramie,—

"So far as frequent interruption from the Indians would allow, we occupied ourselves in making some astronomical calculations, and bringing up the general map to this stage of our journey; but the tent was generally occupied by a succession of our ceremonious visitors. Some came for presents and others for information of our object in coming to the country; now and then, one would dart up to the tent on horseback, jerk off his trappings, and stand silently at the door, holding his horse by the halter, signifying his desire to trade. Occasionally a savage would stalk in with an invitation to a feast of honour—a dog feast, and deliberately sit down and wait quietly until I was ready to accompany him. I went to one. The women and children were sitting outside the lodge, and we took our seats on buffalo robes spread around. The dog was in a large pot over the fire, in the middle of the lodge, and immediately on our arrival was dished up in large wooden bowls, one of which was handed to each. The flesh appeared very glutinous, with something of the flavour and appearance of mutton. Feeling something move behind me, I looked round, and found that I had taken my seat among a litter of fat young puppies. Had I been nice in such matters, the prejudices of civilization might have interfered with my tranquillity; but, fortunately, I am not of delicate nerves, and continued quietly to empty my platter."

Captain Fremont's ascent of the highest peak of the Wind River Mountains (a chain projecting from the great range of the Rocky) not far from the South Pass, is not without interest. It was a difficult and hazardous feat—at least, after passing the line of perpetual congelation. It is, however, much too long for extract, and we can only afford space for the last few lines, relating to the attainment of the peak:—

"Putting hands and feet in the crevices between the blocks, I succeeded in getting over it, and when I reached the top, found my companions in a small valley below. Descending to them, we continued climbing, and in a short time reached the crest. I sprang upon the summit, and another step would have precipitated me into an immense snow field, 500 feet below. To the edge of this field was a sheer icy precipice; and then, with a gradual fall, the field sloped off for about a mile, until it struck the foot of another lower ridge. I stood on a narrow crest, about three feet in width, with an inclination of about 20° N. 51° E. As soon as I had gratified the first feelings of curiosity, I descended, and each man ascended in his turn; for I would only allow one at a time to mount the unstable and precarious slab, which it seemed a breath would hurl into the abyss below. We mounted the barometer in the snow of the summit, and, fixing a ramrod in a crevice, unfurled the national flag to wave in the breeze where never flag waved before. During our morning's ascent, we had met no sign of animal life, except the small sparrow-like bird already mentioned. A stillness the most profound and a terrible solitude forced themselves constantly on the mind as the great features of the place. Here, on the summit, where the stillness was absolute, unbroken by any sound, and the solitude complete, we thought ourselves beyond the region of animated life; but while we were sitting on the rock, a solitary bee (*bromus, the humble bee*) came winging his flight from the eastern valley, and lit on the knee of one of the men. It was a strange place,—the icy rock and the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains,—for a lover of warm sunshine and flowers; and we pleased ourselves with the idea that he was the first of his species to cross the mountain barrier—a solitary pioneer to foretel the advance of civilization. I believe that a moment's thought would have made us let him continue his way unharmed; but we carried out the law of this country, where all animated nature seems at war; and, seizing him immediately, put him in at least a fit place—in the leaves of a large book, among the flowers we had collected on our way. The barometer stood at 18·293, the attached thermometer at 44°; giving for the elevation of this summit 13,570 feet above the Gulf of Mexico, which may be called the highest flight of the bee. It is certainly the highest known flight of that insect. From the description given by Mackenzie of the mountains where he crossed them, with that of a French officer still farther to the north, and Colonel Long's measurements to the south, joined to the opinion of the oldest traders of the country, it is presumed that this is the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains. The day was sunny and bright, but a slight shining mist hung over the lower plains, which interfered with our view of the surrounding country. On one side we overlooked innumerable lakes and streams, the spring of the Colorado of the Gulf of California: and on the other was the Wind river valley, where were the heads of the Yellow-stone branch of the Missouri; far to the north we just could discover the snowy heads of the *Trois Tetons*, where were the sources of the Missouri and Columbia rivers; and at the southern extremity of the ridge the peaks were plainly visible, among which were some of the springs of the Nebraska or Platte river. Around us, the whole scene had one main striking feature, which was that of terrible convulsion. Parallel to its length, the ridge was split into chasms and fissures; between which rose the thin lofty walls, terminated with slender minarets and columns."

The second expedition—which was even better provided with men and instruments—left Kansas, on the Missouri frontier, late in May, 1843. It adopted for some weeks a route more southern than that of the preceding year; and we have, therefore, the advantage of astronomical observations in regions little explored. The Rocky Mountains were crossed through the South Pass, very nearly at the point which had been visited the year before. The passage through the chain, and afterwards through the first valley of the Oregon, was one of great hardship and privation. The entire region is exceedingly barren; and the few Indian inhabitants are glad to live on snakes, roots, and grass, or whatever else they can obtain. Whoever may follow Captain Fremont in his route, from east to west of about 2,800 miles, will perceive that it would be scarcely possible to take an army, or even three regiments, along it. Probably such a hazardous experiment would not be attempted without the previous establishment of military posts through the greater part of the distance—a work requiring no little labour, time, and expense. It is certain that a couple of hundred men stationed in any one of the three passes (the only ones practicable) might easily arrest the progress of twenty times the number. For these reasons it may be doubted whether troops, in any considerable number, could be conveyed overland from the United States to the disputed territory, or that there is any intention to convey them. It has been said, and not without some truth, that to lead an army from the Atlantic States to Fort Vancouver, would be a feat comparable with Hannibal's passage of the Alps. It is this consideration chiefly that inclines us to suspect that we shall have no war for such a district as the country north of the Columbia.

The greater part of it will never be inhabited by civilized man. Much of the region, too, south of that river, and extending into California, is of the same hopeless character. The valleys, indeed, are often fertile, especially those near to the sea; but, at some seasons of the year, the climate is unfavourable, and three-fourths of the soil useful only as pasture for sheep. Captain Fremont represents the country in more unfavourable colours than preceding travellers; but then we must remember that he left Fort Vancouver in November, and reached the valley of the Sacramento in March, near the junction of that river with the Rio de los Americanos. Still it is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that the soil of the Oregon territory generally must render it of less use to agriculturists than we have been taught to expect.

In his return to the Rocky Mountains, through Upper California, Captain Fremont relates a tragical adventure, which, however glorious he may think it, will be read with very different feelings by Europeans. One day two Mexicans entered the camp, who had with great difficulty escaped from a party of Indians, that had taken or killed four others of their party, with some horses. The gallant leader of the expedition promised them such aid as circumstances might enable him to give them. Two men were accordingly despatched with one of the Mexicans, to ascertain the route which the plunderers had taken; but the horse of the latter being unable to keep pace with the rest, he soon returned to the camp, while his better-mounted companions pursued "the Arabs of the New World." Here is the result:—

"In the afternoon of the next day a war-whoop was heard, such as Indians make when returning from a victorious enterprise; and soon Carson and Godey appeared, driving before them a band of horses, recognized by Fuentes to be part of those they had lost. Two bloody scalps dangling from the end of Godey's gun, announced that they had overtaken the Indians as well as the horses. They informed us, that after Fuentes left them, from the failure of his horse, they continued the pursuit alone, and towards nightfall entered the mountains, into which the trail led. After sunset, the moon gave light, and they followed the trail by moonshine until late in the night, when it entered a narrow defile, and was difficult to follow. Afraid of losing it in the darkness of the defile, they tied up their horses, struck no fire, and lay down to sleep in silence and in darkness. Here they lay from midnight till morning. At daylight they resumed the pursuit, and about sunrise discovered the horses; and, immediately dismounting and tying up their own, they crept cautiously to a rising ground which intervened, from the crest of which they perceived the encampment of four lodges close by. They proceeded quietly, and had got within thirty or forty yards of their object, when a movement among the horses discovered them to the Indians; giving the war-shout, they instantly charged into the camp, regardless of the number which the *four* lodges would imply. The Indians received them with a flight of arrows, shot from their long bows, one of which passed through Godey's shirt collar, barely missing the neck; our men fired their rifles upon a steady aim, and rushed in. Two Indians were stretched on the ground, fatally pierced with bullets; the rest fled, except a lad that was captured. The scalps of the fallen were instantly stripped off; but in the process, one of them, who had two balls through his body, sprung to his feet, the blood streaming from his skinned head, and uttering a hideous howl. An old squaw, possibly his mother, stopped and looked back from the mountain side she was climbing, threatening and lamenting. The frightful spectacle appalled the stout hearts of our men; but they did what humanity required, and quickly terminated the agonies of the gory savage. They were now masters of the camp, which was a pretty little recess in the mountain, with a fine spring, and apparently safe from all invasion. Great preparations had been made to feast a large party, for it was a very proper place for a rendezvous, and for the celebration of such orgies as robbers of the desert would delight in. Several of the best horses had been killed, skinned, and cut up; for the Indians living in mountains, and only coming into the plains to rob and murder, make no other use of horses than to eat them. Large earthen vessels were on the fire, boiling and stewing the horse-beef; and several baskets, containing fifty or sixty pairs of moccasins, indicated the presence or expectation of a considerable party. They released the boy, who had given strong evidence of the stoicism, or something else, of the savage character, in commencing his breakfast upon a horse's head, as soon as he found he was not to be killed but only tied as a prisoner. Their object accomplished, our men gathered up all the surviving horses—fifteen in number—returned upon their trail, and rejoined us at our camp in the afternoon of the same day. They had rode about 100 miles in the pursuit and return, and all in thirty hours. The time, place, object, and numbers, considered, this expedition of Carson and Godey may be considered among the boldest and most disinterested which the annals of western adventure—so full of daring deeds—can present. Two men in a savage desert, pursue, day and night, an unknown body of Indians into the defiles of an unknown mountain; attack them on sight, without counting numbers, and defeat them in an instant;—and for what? To punish the robbers of the desert, and to avenge the wrongs of Mexicans, whom they did not know. I repeat: it was Carson and Godey who did this—the former an *American*, born in the Boonslick county of Missouri; the latter a Frenchman, born in St. Louis—and both trained to western enterprise from early life."

We shall not write one word of comment on this Christian scalping transaction, and we feel little disposition to proceed any further with a book containing such a relation. We shall merely observe, that though it does add something to our stock of knowledge respecting the western parts of the great American continent, it is both in a literary and a scientific point of view a performance greatly inferior to what we might expect from the author's numerous advantages. Between a Duflot de Mofras and a Fremont there is a wider gulf than anybody would expect to find,—not merely as to information, but as to the interest of the narrative.

Of Mr. Cushing's Lecture we shall take little notice. It is altogether a party pamphlet, as full of mis-statements as any one that has ever fallen into our hands. We shall expose one only—a fair sample of the rest. "It is conceded that Captain Gray, of Boston, in the ship Columbia, first of all Christian men discovered and entered and named the river Columbia." Who concedes it? In a former number we have shown [*ante*, p. 8] that a Spaniard, Don Bruno de Heceta, was the discoverer of this river, at least sixteen years before Captain Gray was off the coast. This fact is stated at length in the important work of Navarrete, 'Historia de los Descubrimientos,' published at Madrid some twenty years ago, and extracted from the archives of the Spanish Marine. Really such statements as this must either come from a very bold man, or be addressed to an audience little scrupulous as to facts so that the popular feeling be gratified. It would be no less easy to show, that the Treaty of Florida (1819) in no degree affected that of the Escurial (1790), and could not possibly affect it; and equally that Louisiana was never understood to extend beyond the Rocky Mountains. But, as we have before dwelt on these and kindred points, it is unnecessary to revert to them.

Tales from Boccaccio, with Modern Illustrations, and other Poems. Bentley.

Here we have another Mystification!—as different in quality and purpose from 'The New Timon' as one of Mr. Planché's *extravaganzas* is from one of Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's historical plays. A Greek title-page motto, a French dedication to M. le Comte d'Orsay, a "supplementary introduction," with a scriptural motto, a sketch of the 'Life and Writings of Giovanni Boccaccio,' followed by one or two tales in the Whistlecraft or Berni style, with notes, in which a parade of authorities is intended to pass for learning, and many harmless jokes are aimed at the members of a certain literary coterie, make up an olla *podrida* more curious than edifying. The book, in short, is a manufactured curiosity, which seems to have passed through as many hands as a pin: but, as often happens with that indispensable article, while we own the ingenuity with which it has been put together, we cannot but feel that the point might have been sharper without any murderous harm to "priests or people." The days of banter are gone by, unless new forms be taken by the banterer.

Others, however, may have different opinions on this delicate topic, and feel curious to see what great men of our time—or "of all time"—are served up by the pic-nic party who have entertained themselves with (themselves? and) their neighbours under pretext of poetizing Boccaccio. We will, therefore, let the author of 'The Abbot of Florence' give vent to one of his sprightliest *tirades*:—

When I was young, I wrote some furious papers,
Slaughtering the poets, future, past, and present,—
In short, I cut most critical of capers,
And wrote what must at least be called unpleasant.
But poets, dull dogs, give us all the vapours!
Especially if the bard's a self-taught peasant;
Than which, I don't think, Mother Nature can
Make a worse bore—except a learned man!

Now this is most magnanimous of me,
For I am intimate with tongues eleven,
And am on speaking terms with twenty-three;
Indeed there's scarce a language under Heaven
In which I don't write first-rate poetry,
Except in English;—this great gift was given
With my first teeth, for my dear mother says
My sucking verses were like Talfourd's plays.

At four years I began to poetise,
And spoke Pindaric odes on "odds or evens:"
When I was seven I wrote two comedies,
So full of fun all thought them writ by Stephens;
Jones likened them to Powell's Tragedies,
Which are made up of Horne's and Browning's leavings;
For he, I'm told, asks dramatists to tea,
And sucks their plots as they suck his Bohea!

He once implored me on his bended knees
To carefully correct some silly play:
Now I'm a Christian poet given to please,
And like to be obliging in my way,—
I therefore tried to make his chalk to cheese,
And churned upon it a whole summer's day;
But wrote, indignant, as I sent the drama,
"You have missed poetry, but murdered grammar."

Then I dashed off an epic; this I gave
To Heraud, which he printed as his own;
A publisher (the poets' willing slave)
Gave him four thousand guineas for it down!
Till rivals, one at least began to rave,
(He's now the mad "Barabbas" of the town!)
For the great epic sold at such a rate,
That the four thousand guineas brought in *eight*.

Epics are somewhat at a discount now,
The last was knocked down at a farthing; yet
Eight large editions crown the starry brow
Of bald Orion,—no mean coronet!
But, after all, the price was very low,
And to my dying day I shan't forget
When epics "four a penny" at the shops
Brought down the price of taws and lollypops.

This, we must confess, appears to us very "deadly lively,"—and the whole Legend is made too much the vehicle for such caprioles,—the style being audacious rather than easy, the verses hard to scan and harder to understand; such as the following:—

There's an old simile upon an apple
That grows somewhere about the famous Dead Sea,
But I'm inclined to think we often map ill,
For fruit like this grows nearer far the Red Sea:
I mean the ruby lips at church and chapel,
Which often makes my blood like to a fled sea,
Which rallying its waves returns in blue skips
To shiver on the rosy beach of two lips.

'The Abbot,' in short, if truth must out, is but a heavy piece of impertinence.

'Salvestra,' the second tale, moves somewhat more poetically; though of its mixed style we cannot admit it to be equal to the 'Gyges' of

Barry Cornwall,—and that again will not bear comparison with 'Beppo' or 'Don Juan.' Let us take a specimen at random; three verses devoted to Paris; which are fuller of fine words than of French fashions:—

Paris! the city of the gay and free!
Fashion's metropolis! and Reason's mart!
The focal lens of contrariety!
Hearts without love, and loves without the heart.—
Where courtesy has grown so much an art,
That manners make the man, not he makes them,
Forming of him the whole, and not a part,
His substance, not the accidents,—that gem
Desert or rank,—the head, and not the diadem.

Manners—not morals—but their substitute,
The grave and frivolous, the false and vain,
Confound in one solution dissolute,
And make a mere alembic of the brain.
Shades of the brave that haunt the banks of Seine!
Once more to your degenerate race appear,
Return ye to the well-remembered plain;
The ancient frankness, daring, witness here,
Now poorly, dimly, shown, in shrug, grimace, and sneer.

With too much independence, to be free;
And, for true valour, too much levity;
Each son of France pursues his proper glee,
And greets the passing follies as they fly.
To nought but his own mood in slavery,
By that subdued to lust and indolence—
O strongest, though unsceptered tyranny!
The slave of whim, and passion, and pretence,
Not fearing to offend, impatient of offence.

The author of 'Salvestra' knows little of foreign lands, save by hearsay, or we are no conjurors. He would hardly else have placed his young Girolamo on board a "stately barque," an "argosy," and sent her sailing "proudly beautiful," adown the "bright" Arno, to Pisa,—or, in painting a view of Florence, have introduced such a novelty as

—the tall tower of *Vecchio (!)*

He is obviously more familiar with our own old poets,—and when he lays aside his antics, and ventures with them into the dismal domains of Tragedy, he becomes natural and impressive. The following stanzas, very ghastly with all their quaintness, are, to our thinking, among the best in the legend of 'Salvestra':—

The Dirge.

Who dare say, God is proud?
What, then! Can Pride be human
In Man? and fair in Woman?
O, how looks it in a shroud?
Chap-fallen! Ah! why?
Of the dust, for it is spread,
In the grave, an humble bed—
Where it *must* lie!

Weep ye? O, turn aside
In shame, ye melancholy,
Ye wanton sons of Folly!
Pride! repent thee of thy pride!
Chap-fallen! Ah! why?
Look, where Death's pale mask, a-grin,
Laughs at mortals, while they sin—
There they *must* lie!

In addition to these tales, we have a slighter pair—'Fiorante and the Bridal Eve,' and 'The Legend of St. Dunstan,'—told in a manner we could refer to its parentage, were it not our humour to be as discreetly, as the gentlemen before us are frolicsomely, mysterious. The following song will hardly puzzle any one who knows the tunes of our song-writers:—

Second Damsel's Song.
(CONSTANCY.)

Constancy! look on the first green leaves
When fresh in the spring they blow:
Constancy! look on the ripening sheaves
Ere the year's decline they know.

Look on the sea when the waves are smooth,
On the sky when the stars are bright;
List to the winds when their murmurs soothe
The rest of the tranquil night.

Gaze upon these, and forget the time
When the earth her flowers must weep,
When the stars grow pale and the storms sublime
O'er the seas in their fury sweep.

Then seek if thou wilt for pageantry,
For its native clime is here,
But constancy dwelleth afar on high,
And dies in this lower sphere.

These two stories, however, are obviously an after-thought, since their paging indicates that they were intended to claim a separate existence.

The Life and Correspondence of David Hume. By J. H. Burton, Esq.

[Second Notice.]

HUME's philosophical scepticism so obviously guided his religious opinions, his moral theories and his historical deductions, that we have been compelled to bestow a greater share of attention on his metaphysical views than such abstract inquiries usually demand. We have not denied his acuteness and subtlety; our complaint has been, that these qualities were in excess, and the result is, that where his arguments admit of no answer, they produce no conviction. Even in his 'Political Essays,' which appeared in 1752, we find that he more frequently commands assent than he wins belief. These Essays contain the first germs of those great truths in economic science which appear destined to guide our political future; but in spite of the praise rather extravagantly bestowed upon them by Lord Brougham, we feel that these principles were better understood and far more clearly expounded by Adam Smith, simply because Smith has not only brought them down to the level of our reason, but placed them within the range of our sympathies. It was the bane of that mixture of Utility and Necessity which Hume advocated in Moral Science, and which we have shown to be the result of his metaphysical theory of mind, that so soon as emotions and affections mingled in a question, he knew not how to set about its solution. Of this we have an amusing instance,—that is to say, amusing to metaphysicians,—in the third volume of his 'Treatise of Human Nature,' where he contends for an intuitive moral sense, and at the same time endeavours to prove it an impression, or at least the result of impressions.

In 1752 Hume was appointed librarian to the Faculty of Advocates, and the command of books which he thus obtained suggested his 'History of England.' The first volume appeared in 1754, containing the reigns of James I. and Charles I.; his reasons for selecting this period are thus stated in a letter to Adam Smith:—

"I confess I was once of the same opinion with you, and thought that the best period to begin an English history was about Henry the Seventh. But you will please to observe, that the change which then happened in public affairs, was very insensible, and did not display its influence till many years afterwards. 'Twas under James that the House of Commons began first to raise their head, and then the quarrel betwixt privilege and prerogative commenced. The government, no longer oppressed by the enormous authority of the crown, displayed its genius; and the factions which then arose, having an influence on our present affairs, form the most curious, interesting, and instructive part of our history. The preceding events, or causes, may easily be shown, in a reflection or review, which may be artfully inserted in the body of the work; and the whole, by that means, be rendered more compact and uniform. I confess, that the subject appears to me very fine; and I enter upon it with great ardour and pleasure. You need not doubt of my perseverance."

The inconsistency between the high prerogative principles which Hume advocated in his History, and the democratic utilitarianism of his Essays, has always excited much surprise, and, indeed, is not satisfactorily explained. Mr. Burton, however, helps to elucidate the difficulty in the account he gives of the extravagant praise which Hume bestowed on Wilkie's 'Epigoniad,' a poem which has long rested in unhonoured oblivion:—

"In his conduct on this occasion, Hume exhibited strong national partiality. It may seem at first sight at variance with some of his other characteristics; but it is undoubtedly true, that Hume was imbued with an intense spirit of nationality. It was a nationality, however, of a peculiar and restricted character. He cared little about the heroism of his country, or even its struggles for independence: Wallace, Bruce, and the Black Douglas, were, in his eyes, less interesting than Ulysses or Æneas,

—— carent quia vate sacro.

But in that arena which he thought the greatest, in the theatre where intellect exhibits her might, he panted to see his country first and greatest. No Scotsman could write a book of respectable talent without calling forth his loud and warm eulogiums. Wilkie was to be the Homer, Blacklock the Pindar, and Home the Shakspere, or something still greater, of his country. On those who were even his rivals in his own peculiar walks—Adam Smith, Robertson, Ferguson, and Henry, he heaped the same honest, hearty commendation. He urged them to write; he raised the spirit of literary ambition in their breasts; he found publishers for their works; and, when these were completed, he trumpeted the praises of the authors through society."

It was his object to show that a Scottish dynasty had been as unfairly treated in English history as a Scottish Homer in English literature. But in order to exalt James I. into a hero, it was necessary to degrade the character of his unhappy mother, and to this task Hume set himself with an earnestness which almost amounted to personal rancour. We find him writing to Dr. Robertson:—

"I am afraid that you, as well as myself, have drawn Mary's character with too great softenings. She was, undoubtedly, a violent woman at all times. You will see in *Murden* proofs of the utmost rancour against her innocent, good-natured, dutiful son. She certainly disinherited him. What think you of a conspiracy for kidnapping him, and delivering him a prisoner to the King of Spain, never to recover his liberty till he should turn Catholic? Tell Goodall, that if he can but give me up Queen Mary, I hope to satisfy him in everything else; and he will have the pleasure of seeing John Knox and the Reformers made very ridiculous."

We have too recently examined the charges against Mary [see *Athen.* No. 969] to open the controversy again, but we should not have expected, even from Hume, an assertion of the innocence, the good nature, or the filial duty of James. The history of that miserable prince before his accession to the throne of England is replete with traits of selfish vice, malevolence, and determination to prevent his mother's restoration to the throne. Documents connected with her trial, which have been recently discovered, and are understood to be in preparation for publication, are said to contain proofs that he was "consenting unto her death."

Mr. Burton has diligently examined the changes made by Hume in the successive editions of his History, and has shown that they approach closer and closer to despotic principles. It was, however, on religious grounds that the work was chiefly attacked, and his sensitiveness on this subject exposed him to a retort too happy to be omitted:—

"He never failed, in the midst of any controversy, to give its due praise to everything tolerable that was either said or written against him. One day that he visited me in London, he came into my room laughing and apparently well pleased. 'What has put you into this good humour, Hume?' said I, 'Why, man,' replied he, 'I have just now had the best thing said to me I ever heard. I was complaining in a company where I spent the morning, that I was very ill treated by the world, and that the censures put upon me were very hard and unreasonable. That I had written many volumes, throughout the whole of which there were but a few pages that contained any reprehensible matter, and yet that for those few pages, I was abused and torn to pieces.' 'You put me in mind,' said an honest fellow in the company, whose name I did not know, 'of an acquaintance of mine, a notary public, who having been condemned to be hanged for forgery, lamented the hardship of his case; that after having written many thousand inoffensive sheets, he should be hanged for one line.' *Hardy's Memoirs of Charlemont*, p. 121."

There is abundant evidence that Hume

resolved to make his History a means of revenging on the English nation the outcry raised against Scotland and Scotchmen during the unpopular administration of Lord Bute. He gives, to Adam Smith, the following account of the ministerial changes:—

"Lord Bute, disgusted with the ministers, who had almost universally conspired to neglect him, and suspecting their bottom to be too narrow, had, before Lord Egremont's death, opened an egotiation with Mr. Pitt, by means of Lord Shelburne, who employed Calcraft the agent. Mr. Pitt says, that he always declared it highly improper that he should be brought to the king before all terms were settled on such a footing as to render it impossible for them to separate without agreeing. He accordingly thought they were settled. His first conference with the king confirmed him in that opinion, and he wrote to the Duke of Devonshire to come to town, in order to place himself at the head of the treasury. The Duke of Newcastle said, at his table on Sunday was a fortnight, that the ministry was settled. But when Mr. Pitt came to the king that afternoon, he found him entirely changed, and everything was retracted that had been agreed on. This is his story. The other party says, that he rose in his terms, and wanted to impose the most exorbitant conditions on his sovereign. I suppose that the first conference passed chiefly in generals, and that Mr. Pitt would then be extremely humble, and submissive, and polite, and dutiful in his expressions. But when he came to particulars, they did not seem to correspond with these appearances. At least, this is the best account I can devise of the matter, consistent with the honour of both parties. You would see the present ministry by the papers. It is pretended that they are enraged against Lord Bute, for negotiating without their knowledge or consent; and that the other party are no less displeased with him for not finishing the treaty with them. That nobleman declared his resolution of going abroad a week or two ago. Now he is determined to pass the winter in London. Our countrymen are visibly hurt in this justle of parties, which I believe to be far from the intentions of Lord Bute."

But Hume had no reason to complain of any personal injury in these changes; the Marquis of Hertford, when appointed as ambassador to France, chose him for his secretary; and the reception he met in Paris was so far beyond his expectations as to disturb his philosophic equanimity. He thus records the impression produced on him by the homage he received:—

"Those who have not seen the strange effects of modes, will never imagine the reception I met with at Paris, from men and women of all ranks and stations. The more I resiled from their excessive civilities, the more I was loaded with them. There is, however, a real satisfaction in living at Paris; from the great number of sensible, knowing, and polite company with which that city abounds above all places in the universe. I thought once of settling there for life."

Lord Charlemont adds some particulars worthy of being preserved:—

"From what has been already said of him, it is apparent that his conversation to strangers, and particularly to Frenchmen, could be little delightful, and still more particularly, one would suppose, to Frenchwomen: and yet no lady's toilette was complete without Hume's attendance. At the opera his broad unmeaning face was usually seen *entre deux jolis minois*. The ladies in France gave the ton, and the ton was deism: a species of philosophy ill suited to the softer sex, in whose delicate frame weakness is interesting, and timidity a charm. . . . . How my friend Hume was able to endure the encounter of these French female Titans, I know not. In England, either his philosophic pride or his conviction that infidelity was ill suited to women, made him perfectly averse from the initiation of ladies into the mysteries of his doctrine."

The compliments he received in France made Hume impatient of the censure his works occasionally received in England; when asked by Millar to continue his History, he replied,—

"The rage and prejudice of parties frighten me; and above all, this rage against the Scots, which is so dishonourable, and indeed so infamous to the English nation. We hear that it increases every day, without the least appearance of provocation on our part. It has frequently made me resolve never in my life to set foot on English ground. I dread, if I should undertake a more modern history, the impertinence and ill manners to which it would expose me; and I was willing to know from you whether former prejudices had so far subsided as to ensure me of a good reception."

Some of the remarks which he makes on the difference of the position of literary men in London and Paris, are applicable to the same capitals in the present day:—

"There is a very remarkable difference between London and Paris; of which I gave warning to Helvétius, when he went over lately to England, and of which he told me, on his return, he was fully sensible. If a man have the misfortune, in the former place, to attach himself to letters, even if he succeeds, I know not with whom he is to live, nor how he is to pass his time in a suitable society. The little company there that is worth conversing with, are cold and unsociable; or are warmed only by faction and cabal; so that a man who plays no part in public affairs becomes altogether insignificant; and, if he is not rich, he becomes even contemptible. Hence that nation are relapsing fast into the deepest stupidity and ignorance. But, in Paris, a man that distinguishes himself in letters, meets immediately with regard and attention. I found, immediately on my landing here, the effects of this disposition. Lord Beauchamp told me that I must go instantly with him to the Duchess de la Valieres. When I excused myself, on account of dress, he told me that he had her orders, though I were in boots. I accordingly went with him, in a travelling frock, where I saw a very fine lady reclining on a sofa, who made me speeches and compliments without bounds. The style of panegyric was then taken up by a fat gentleman, whom I cast my eyes upon, and observed him to wear a star of the richest diamonds;—it was the Duke of Orleans. The Duchess told me she was engaged to sup in President Hénault's, but that she would not part with me;—I must go along with her. The good president received me with open arms; and told me, among other fine things, that, a few days before, the Dauphin said to him, &c."

After leaving France, Hume returned to England, and obtained a high official appointment; but this did not reconcile him to the English people; we find him venting his dislike in strong terms to Sir Gilbert Elliot, and taking his revenge by effacing from his History every passage which tended to prove that liberty was the heritage of the English people:—

"Dear Sir Gilbert,—I am glad of your victories; though I look upon them all as temporary and imperfect, like the fallacious recoveries of a hectic person, who is hastening to his dissolution. Our government has become a chimera, and is too perfect, in point of liberty, for so rude a beast as an Englishman; who is a man, a bad animal too, corrupted by above a century of licentiousness. The misfortune is, that this liberty can scarcely be retrenched without danger of being entirely lost; at least the fatal effects of licentiousness must first be made palpable, by some extreme mischief resulting from it. I may wish that the catastrophe should rather fall on our posterity; but it hastens on with such large strides as leave little room for this hope. I am running over again the last edition of my History, in order to correct it still further. I either soften or expunge many villanous, seditious Whig strokes, which had crept into it. I wish that my indignation at the present madness, encouraged by lies, calumnies, imposture, and every infamous act usual among popular leaders, may not throw me into the opposite extreme. I am, however, sensible that the first editions were too full of those foolish English prejudices, which all nations and all ages disavow. The present firm conduct of the king, and his manly resentment, afford some glimpse of hope. We, at a distance, are not acquainted with these matters; and few even at London; but there still appears something mysterious in the Duke of Grafton's resignation. I hope it proceeded only from his discontents with Bedford House."

With such opinions it is a little surprising to find that he took, not only a moderate, but a very liberal view of the disputes between England and America:—

"Oh! Dear Baron [Mure],—you have thrown me into agonies, and almost into convulsions, by your request. You ask what seems reasonable,—what seems a mere trifle; yet am I so unfit for it, that it is almost impossible for me to comply. You are much fitter yourself. That address, by which you gained immortal honour, was done altogether without my knowledge; I mean that after the suppression of the late rebellion. Here is Lord Home teazing me for an address from the Merse; and I have constantly refused him. Besides, I am an American in my principles, and wish we would let them alone to govern or misgovern themselves, as they think proper: the affair is of no consequence, or of little consequence, to us. If the county of Renfrew think it indispensably necessary for them to interpose in public matters, I wish they would advise the king, first to punish those insolent rascals in London and Middlesex, who daily insult him and the whole legislature, before he thinks of America. Ask him, how he can expect that a form of government will maintain an authority at three thousand miles' distance, when it cannot make itself be respected, or even be treated with common decency, at home. Tell him, that Lord North, though, in appearance, a worthy gentleman, has not a head for these great operations; and, that if fifty thousand men, and twenty millions of money, were intrusted to such a lukewarm coward as Gage, they never could produce any effect. These are objects worthy of the respectable county of Renfrew: not mauling the poor infatuated Americans in the other hemisphere."

Mr. Burton has entered at great length into an examination of the quarrel between Hume and Rousseau, but the matter has been so frequently discussed that it has no longer any interest; he has also bestowed some pains on the relations between the philosopher and the philosophic ladies of Paris, which belong more to the regions of tattle and scandal than to grave criticism or sober disquisitions. His duties as an editor have been most creditably performed; he has bestowed thought as well as toil on his task, and his volumes must ever hold a high rank in the history of English philosophy.

Home, the author of 'Douglas,' accompanied Hume on the visit to Bath, which was recommended as the last desperate remedy for his declining health; the dramatist has kept a diary of the last days of the philosopher, which is among the most pleasing records of Hume's conversational power that we possess. Some of the anecdotes are curious, but they are sadly in need of verification:—

"Mr. Hume told me, that the Duke de Choiseul, at the time Lord Hertford was in France, expressed the greatest inclination for peace, and a good correspondence between France and Britain. He assured Lord Hertford, that if the court of Britain would relinquish Falkland Island, he would undertake to procure from the court of Spain the payment of the Manilla ransom. Lord Hertford communicated the proposal to Mr. Grenville, who slighted it. Lord Hertford told Mr. Hume the same day an extraordinary instance of the violence of faction. Towards the end of Queen Anne's reign, when the Whig ministers were turned out of all their places at home, and the Duke of Marlborough still continued in the command of the army abroad, the discarded ministers met, and wrote a letter, which was signed by Lord Somers, Lord Townshend, Lord Sunderland, and Sir Robert Walpole, desiring the duke to bring over the troops he could depend on, and that they would seize the queen's person, and proclaim the Elector of Hanover Regent. The Duke of Marlborough answered the letter, and said it was madness to think of such a thing. Mr. Horace Walpole, Sir R. Walpole's youngest son, confirmed the truth of this anecdote, which he had heard his father repeat often and often; and Mr. Walpole allowed Mr. Hume to quote him

as his authority, and make what use he pleased of it. When George I. came to England, he hesitated whether to make a Whig or a Tory administration; but the German minister, Bernstorf, determined him to take the side of the Whigs, who had made a purse of thirty thousand guineas, and given it to this German. George I. was of a moderate and gentle temper. —He regretted all his life, that he had given way to the violence of the Whigs in the beginning of his reign. Whenever any difficulty occurred in parliament, he used to blame the impeachment of the Tories,—'Ce diable de impeachment,' as he called it. The Whigs, in the end of Queen Anne's reign, bribed the Emperor's ministers not to consent to the peace, and to send over Prince Eugene with proposals to continue the war. This anecdote from Lord Bath. Another anecdote Mr. Hume mentioned, but distrusted the authority, for it was David Mallet who told Mr. Hume, that he had evidence in his custody of a design to assassinate Lord Oxford. Prior, after the accession, was reduced to such poverty by the persecution he met with, that he was obliged to publish his works by subscription. Lord Bathurst told Mr. Hume, that he was with Prior reading the pieces that were to be published, and he thought there was not enough to make two small volumes. He asked Prior if he had no more poems? He said, No more that he thought good enough.—'What is that?' said Bathurst, pointing to a roll of paper. 'A trifle,' said Prior, 'that I wrote in three weeks, not worthy of your attention or that of the public.' Lord Bathurst desired to see it. This neglected piece was *Alma*."

Adam Smith's account of Hume's death has been so often eulogized, and so often reprobated, that our readers must have had sufficient opportunities of determining whether he was at the final change a reprobate, or a calm philosopher. The metaphysical and religious controversies to which his writings gave rise have been too often made to turn on his individual character, for us to imitate what we have ever condemned,—the attempt to identify a man with his system. We have not even now materials for a sound estimate of Hume's character as a man; but Mr. Burton has added much to our means of estimating him correctly as a philosopher, a moralist, and a historian.

In our estimate of Hume as a metaphysician, we find him much more of a logician than of a philosopher. He takes the theories of Hobbes, Locke, and Berkeley, rejects all the limitations of their propositions, and thus, having given them the form of abstract truths, infers, what they never contemplated, that we know nothing whatever, except through the medium of experience. The existence of mind was shown, from Berkeley's own principles, to be just as uncertain as the existence of matter; but the latent fallacy in the reasoning was concealed—for Berkeley never contended that the same formularies of evidence were necessary to prove the existence of mind and of matter. Hobbes, the real founder of the ideal school, has been much mistaken by his disciples, not excepting Locke himself: he never asserted that *all* knowledge was derived from experience, or from ideas of sensation and reflection, but he showed that experience had a much larger share in producing belief than any previous philosophers had granted. But Hobbes never went into the extreme, — that all our knowledge is deductive; he was too well trained by the study of Aristotle not to perceive that such a proposition involved a contradiction in terms; because there must be a beginning of deduction somewhere, and therefore the first link of the chain must be exceptional to the rule. Hume's argument in fact is, that, because this link is exceptional, we can therefore have no certainty of its existence. But we deny the rule: we assert that man possesses knowledge and belief independent of deductive reasoning; we know the fact of our own existence, without a demonstration. The *Cogito ergo Sum* of Descartes is a proposition unproved by evidence, but yet rests on proof anterior and superior to all evidence. Hume will not recognize man as emotional and instinctive in his nature: he limits his existence to his perceptive character. But is there a man who really believes that his mental life is made up solely of impressions, and that his instinctive passions and emotions have counted for nothing? True, we can present no logical analysis of these instincts, but,—as Dr. Johnson said of Free Will,—"we *feel* that we are free, and that's all about it;" so we may say of instinctive cognizance, "we *feel* that we possess such a power, and you may disprove our assertion without shaking our belief."

Of Hume's Ethical Philosophy we have already spoken; he sought to narrow the basis of morals, and to fix their foundation on Necessity and Utility. It is true that, in this proceeding, he has been warranted by the example of most English writers on the subject. They all seek to establish an inflexible standard of morals, just as if there had ever existed an inflexible condition of society. But every element which tends to the conservation and the developement of society is moral; and should any new element ever be discovered, it would bring with it its own sectional addition to the moral code. There is a valuable rule in moral laws which is very applicable to moral theories—

Wide will wear,
Tight will tear.

Let us confess that there are limits to our knowledge both of individual and social existence; we do not thoroughly comprehend all the present, and we cannot certainly anticipate all the future;—for both reasons we should shrink from setting ourselves up as infallible legislators in morals. Let us not be misunderstood; we assert that the philosophy of morals is not fixed, but progressive; and it must be so until some contrivance is found to make society itself stationary.

It would require a long series of articles to discuss adequately Hume's merits as a historian; but, without entering into any minute criticism, we at once assert that he erred in his first principles. He sought a rigid logical sequence in events; and hence he sneered at all perturbating causes as irrational, and founded on hidden motives: in his view, earnestness, enthusiasm, devotion, and self-sacrifice, were either instances of folly or hypocrisy. An action from generous and exalted impulse was beyond his comprehension. The argument from precedent adduced by Charles I. had its antecedents and consequents logically arranged—in his view, it was therefore right; the Puritans had the worst of the argument, and hence he inferred that they had the worst of the principles. Now argument and principle are very different things;—it is well for the world that there are men who make precedents.

We have been led to these few observations on Hume's merits, not so much by the volume before us as by Lord Brougham's efforts, in acknowledged and unacknowledged publications, to bring Hume's philosophy once more into vogue; our object is, not merely to show that this philosophy is erroneous, but that its revival is hopeless.

The Alps and the Rhine, a Series of Sketches. By J. T. Headley. Wiley & Putnam.

In a former number of this journal [*Ath.* No. 936] we characterized Mr. Headley's 'Letters from Italy' as "teeming with egotism, somewhat meagre in detail, and ambitious in execution." We find 'The Alps and the Rhine' yet more open to such a criticism. "Hoping to do," says the author in his preface, "what others had failed in accomplishing, I confess, was the motive in my attempting these sketches." The thing proposed being to "*book* the Alps" in the compass of a small volume, it is not wonderful if Mr. Headley has failed like his predecessors. The Alps gain no height, the avalanches no terror, the glaciers no "wintry horror," in addition to those already commemorated by Basil Hall, Latrobe and Inglis and numbers numberless. But we will let our sketcher exhibit himself among the—

Passes of the Forclaz and Col de Balm.

"From Martigny, where we arrived at noon from Sion, a mule-path leads over the Forclaz, from which one can look back on the whole valley of the Rhone, one of the most picturesque views in Switzerland. After following awhile the route of Bonaparte's army, on its march from Martigny across the San Bernard, we turned off to the right, and began to ascend the Forclaz. Here I first tested the world-renowned qualities of the mule, amid the Alpine passes; and I must say I did not find the one I was on so very trustworthy. Passing along the brink of a precipice, I thought he went unnecessarily near the edge, but concluding he knew his own business best, I let him take his own way. Suddenly his hinder foot slipped over,—he fell back,—struggled a moment, while a cry of alarm burst from my companions behind,—rallied, and passed on demurely as ever. For a few moments it was a question of considerable doubt whether I was to have a roll with my mule some hundred feet into the torrent below, with the fair prospect of a broken neck and a mangled carcase, or cross the Forclaz. I learned one lesson by it, however, never to surrender my own judgment again, *not even to a mule*. We at length descended into the very small hamlet of Trient, nestled down among the pines. After refreshing ourselves, after a most primitive fashion, with some plain white pine boards, nailed together something after the manner of a workman's bench, for a table, I told our guide I must cross the Col de Balm. He replied it was impossible. 'No one,' said he, 'has crossed it this year, except the mountaineer and hunter. The path by which travellers always cross it is utterly impassable; not even a chamois hunter could follow it; besides, it rained last night, which has made the snow so soft, one would sink in leg-deep at every step, and *I* cannot attempt it.' This was a damper, for I had thought more of making this pass than any other in the Alps. Still I was fully resolved to do it, if it was in the reach of possibility, because from its summit was said to be one of the finest views in the world. So walking around the hamlet, I accosted a hard-looking Swiss, and asked him if he could guide me over the Col de Balm. He replied, that the ordinary route was impassable, being entirely blocked with snow; but that there was a gorge reaching nearly to the top of the pass, now half filled with the wrecks of avalanches, which he thought might be travelled. At least, said he, I am willing to try, and if we cannot succeed, we can return. I took him at his word, and returning, told my friends that I was going to cross the Col de Balm, but that I was unwilling to take the responsibility of urging them to accompany me, for I was convinced the passage would be one of great fatigue, if not of danger. I then called the guide, and told him to meet me with the mules about fifteen miles ahead, at Argentiere. He looked at me a moment, shook his head, and turned away, saying, '*Je vous conseille de ne pas aller.*' '*Je vous conseille de ne pas aller.*' I hesitated a moment, for my guide-book said, 'Always obey your guide,' and further on stated, that on this very pass a young German lost his life by refusing to obey *his*. I did not want to be rash, or expose myself unnecessarily to danger, but one of the finest views in the world was worth an effort; so stripping off my coat and vest, I bade my fearful guide good-bye, and taking a pole in my hand for a cane started off. My friends concluded to follow. Immediately on leaving the valley we entered on the debris of avalanches, which fortunately bore us. It was a steady pull, hour after hour, mile after mile, up this pathless mass of snow, that seemed to go like the roof of a house, at an unbroken angle of forty-five degrees, up and up, till the eye wearied with the prospect. My friends gave out the first hour, while I, though

the weakest of the party, seemed to gain strength the higher I ascended. The cold rare atmosphere acted like a powerful stimulant on my sensitive nervous system, rendering me for the time insensible to fatigue. I soon distanced my friends, while my guide kept cautioning me to keep the centre of the gorge, so that I could flee either to one side or the other should an avalanche see fit to come down just at the time I saw fit to pass. I pressed on, and soon lost sight of every living thing. The silent snow fields and lofty peaks were around me, and the deep blue heavens bending brightly over all. I thought I was near the top, when suddenly there rose right in my very face a cone, covered with snow of virgin purity. I had ascended beyond the reach of avalanches, and stood on snow that lay as it had fallen. I confess I was for a moment discouraged and lonely. Near as this smooth trackless height appeared, a broad inclined plane of soft snow was to be traversed before I could reach it. I sat down in the yielding mass and hallooed to the guide. I could hear the faint reply far, far down the breast of the mountain, and at length caught a glimpse of his form, bent almost double, and toiling like a black insect up the white acclivity. I telegraphed to him to know if I was to climb that smooth peak. He answered yes, and that I must keep to the right. I must confess I could see no particular choice in sides, but pressed on. The clean drifts hung along its acclivities just as the wintry storm had left them, and every step sunk me in mid-leg deep. This was too much; I could not ascend the face of that peak of snow direct: it was too steep; and I was compelled to go backwards and forwards in a zigzag direction to make any progress. At length, exhausted and panting, I fell on my face, and pressed my hot cheek to the cold snow. I felt as if I never could take another step; my breath came difficult and thick, from the straining efforts I was compelled to put forth at every step, while the perspiration streamed in torrents from my face and body. But a cold shiver, just then passing through my frame, admonished me I had already lain too long; so whipping up my flagging spirits, I pushed on. A black spot at length appeared in the wide waste of snow. It was the deserted house of refuge, and I hailed it with joy, for I knew I was at the top. But, oh! as I approached the thing, dreary enough at best, and found it empty, the door broken down by the fierce storm, and the deserted room filled with snow-drifts, my heart died within me, and I gave a double shiver. I crept to the windward side of the dismal concern to shield myself from the freezing blast, which swept by without check, and seemed wholly unconscious that I had clothing on; and crouched meekly in the sunbeams. But as I looked up, about, and beneath me, what a wild, ruinous world of peaks, and crags, and riven mountains, rose on my wondering vision. Farther on, and lo! the sweet vale of Chamouni burst on the sight, lying in an irregular waving line along the Arve, that glittered like a silver chain in the light of the sun. Right out of its quiet bosom towered away in awful majesty the form of Mont Blanc. Oh, what a chaos of mountain peaks seemed to tear up the very sky around him! The lofty 'needles,' inaccessible to anything but the wing of the eagle, shot up their piercing tops over glaciers that, rolled into confusion, went streaming, an ice-flood, into the plains below. How can I describe this scene?"

A sketcher reduced to the last ejaculation might, we think, have been less grandiloquent in his preface! The portion of his book devoted to the Alps is, however, the best; the pages given up to the Rhine contain neither trait nor colour which has the slightest freshness. Mr. Headley wisely ekes out his own scanty inspirations by quoting Byron, Head, &c. &c., but it is once too often.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Pleasures of Poesy, a Poem in Two Cantos, by Henry W. Haynes.—As "a distinguished living author," to whom Mr. Haynes submitted his manuscript, gave him a very significant hint, which he has had the amusing unconsciousness here to record though he did not see fit to take it, we can scarcely anticipate that he will profit much by any suggestions of ours. If, however, it be too much to ask of him so great a sacrifice of his ambition as that of, for the present, not publishing at all, we entreat of him, as he would hope ever to prosper, to be at any rate less ambitious in his style. Mr. Haynes, when he wrote his lyrical drama of 'Job,' was "very young":—it is an unpromising circumstance, that, in his present poem, he is *still younger*. A not unpicturesque grandiloquence, which is often mistaken for power, and in the very young writer too readily accepted as its promise, is here carried to an extravagance of affectation that exhibits a deteriorating taste; and made to clothe such mere commonplaces as cannot be accepted for wisdom from growing years and great pretension. Let Mr. Haynes learn to care more about his thoughts than the garb in which he clothes them. His poetical page reminds the reader of the picture-writing of the Mexicans. Nothing that he has to say can he condescend to say simply. All his thoughts must be presented in a sort of hieroglyphic—cold, hard, and inexpressive, though overcharged with colour; and it is honest to warn him, that the reader who has contrived to get at some few of his meanings, by a solution of the figure, will scarcely think the former of such value as to justify him in frequently going through that process for their extraction. It is but another step in the excess of this error—the tendency to hunt after a crowd of figures to wait upon a trivial thought—that these figures are often arranged about it in such confusion as sorely to bewilder the reader who would thread their maze in search of the actual meaning; while, in doing so, he runs himself too often against knotted and unexpected words that would disturb a lexicographer. In short, the author has fallen into one of the worst snares that can beset the path of him who hopes to be a poet—the desire to be striking, and the belief that he can be so by the means of gaudy colouring and stilted words. This is so serious an impediment to his success, that it is hardly worth while to tell him, just now, of such minor faults as whole pages given to the description of scenes by cataloguing their mere commonplaces—lists of their accidents which are not *peculiarities*, and give them therefore no separate existence to the mind.

Some Meditations and Prayers, selected from the Way of Eternal Life, in order to illustrate and explain the Pictures by Boetius Bolswert, by the Rev. J. Williams, B.D.—The mystical and symbolic pictures of Boetius Bolswert, which these selections are designed to illustrate and explain, belong to an age which has long gone past, and which all the exertions of Mr. Williams and his associates can never bring back. For any other purpose than the gratification of antiquarian curiosity the re-publication of the pictures, though in themselves curious and interesting, and the selections, is nothing better than a chronological blunder. Symbolism is essentially a religion of fear; and hence these pictures display the coarsest representations of human beings tortured in eternal flames: but the world is at last beginning to learn that Christianity is a religion of love. Horrible forms, intended to typify devils and demons, are more calculated to excite ridicule than alarm beyond the precincts of the nursery; and if Boetius ever became popular it would be a sign of infidelity more decisive than the circulation of the works of Paine or Carlile.

Thoughts on Finance and Colonies, by Publius.—The author proposes a plan for the abolition of the Corn-laws in 1861; but, as a nearer date has been fixed by a higher authority, we need not examine his scheme.

Old England, Vol. II. folio.—The present volume, which includes the period from the accession of the house of Tudor to the death of George the Second, completes the work. The writer is evidently far more at home among the later scenes of our history; and we have, therefore, many interesting and spirited sketches of the great characters of the days of Elizabeth, including Elizabeth herself, and of the great men of the Commonwealth, to whom full justice is awarded. The sketches of the early drama and dramatists, of old English sports, and old London manners, of the days of the Spectator and his most delightful creation—Sir Roger de Coverley, and the criticisms on Hogarth, although not entirely new, are written in a pleasant spirit, and we were glad to welcome them in their partially new dress. As a whole, 'Old England' will, we think, supply much amusement and instruction to young people; and contribute, we trust, to increase that interest in our national history and antiquities, which we are happy to see rapidly spreading among all classes.

Droll Dramas for Christmas Comedians and Parlour Performers, by R. M. Evans.—The 'Famous History of Blue Beard,' and 'Count Polka's Courtship,' dramatized for juvenile performers; with hints as to the properties necessary for putting such pieces effectively on the parlour carpet.

A Guide to the Town and Neighbourhood of Abergavenny, by John White.—The author in a modest preface acquaints us, that the solicitations of his friends induced him to compile this little work, with a view to inform tourists of the objects of interest which the town contains, and also to give some account of the scenery, antiquities and residences in the vicinity. For this purpose, the work is well adapted. It also contains a full account of the "Cymreigyddion;" and a list of prizes offered for competition last year, which amount to no less than fifty.

The Horse's Foot, by W. Miles, Esq.—A work of evident experience, and sound in its general views. Here the reader will learn that the shoes of the horse should have as few nails as possible, so as not to prevent the natural expansion of the horn:—that the animal himself should be placed in a loose box, and not kept in stalls, which latter practice is the cause of many evils:—that his feet at night should not be stopped with wet clay, or other aqueous preparation; since the water, though it softens the horn during its application, leaves the pores open when removed, so that evaporation takes place, and the inmost part of the hoof becomes dried, brittle and harder than it was before—instead of this, an oleaginous stopping is recommended. The work is accompanied with illustrations.

The Horse in Health and Disease, by J. W. Winter.—A compilation badly arranged, with much extraneous matter, such as the rules of racing, and imperfect accounts of different breeds, which might have been better omitted. The diseases of the horse are very slightly described, and the treatment recommended is, for the most part, empirical. The list of diseases and drugs is given in alphabetical order, not in natural succession, and is, therefore, comparatively useless to the student. Nor is there by way of compensation, any original views, such as are found in Youatt's popular works on the subject; none of which the present book is calculated to supersede.

School Education for the Nineteenth Century, by S. Preston.—There is not much that is new in this little volume; but the author demands attention on the score of twenty-eight years' experience. He is an advocate for practical improvement; and insists on the essential distinction between instruction and education. The former may, he contends, produce men of great talent in one or two directions; but neglects the general cultivation of the moral and intellectual powers, which is required by all. Specific genius and individual talent have their own laws and demand peculiar treatment; they are the exceptions, not the rule. Education, as distinguished from instruction, begins at the moment of birth, and is best imparted through the medium of the affections. Mr. Preston insists much on female influence in all stages of the process,—a part of the subject involved in many practical difficulties. On this point he quotes Mr. Heraud's Essay in 'The Educator,' as contending for the affirmative. The subject has been repeatedly pressed on our own attention; but the theory, however good in itself, presupposes so much on the part of the conductors, that its success, in most cases, would be manifestly uncertain.

The Pupil's Manual of Exercises in Mental Arithmetic, and (in a separate book) *The Teacher's Manual*, &c., by H. Hopkins, A.M.—Questions in one, with references to answers in the other. When we see such questions by the hundred as "add 14 and 17," with answers in another book, then we say there must be a woeful want of mental arithmetic and of Mr. Hopkins. Perhaps, however, the latter is right.

The First Principles of Arithmetic, by Thomas Tate.—A few months ago, we noticed the treatise on factorials, by which Mr. Tate, teacher in the Training Institution at Battersea, proved himself to have that proficiency in the higher parts of mathe-

matics which is so desirable even for those who have only to teach the lower. The present tract does him much credit. It is a clear exposition of the principles of arithmetic, with sufficiently demonstrated rules. The addendum on the mode of forming easily verified examples for practice, is new, we think; though it may be, perhaps, with other forgotten things, in old books. Mr. Tate gives it as his own discovery, which we have no doubt it is, be it new or old: be it one or the other, it is unknown to teachers in general. We might, in a few words, so completely describe it as to make a serious invasion of copyright; this we will not do, but will content ourselves with telling teachers of arithmetic that they should buy the book for their own sakes.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Anthon's Homer's Iliad, by Davies, 12mo. 7s. 6d. bd.
Bean's (Rev. J.) Family Worship, 20th edit. fc. 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.
Babington's Hulsean Prize Essay for 1845, 'On the Influence of Christianity in the Abolition of Slavery in Europe,' 8vo. 3s. cl.
Barnes's (A.) Notes on St. Paul, 12mo. 3s. cl.
Clayton's (Rev. C.) Parochial Sermons, crown 8vo. 6s. cl.
Carpenter's (Dr.) Manual of Physiology, fc. 8vo. 12s. 6d. cl.
Elliott's Poetical Works, royal 8vo. 3s. swd.
Freer's (C.) Practice of Committees of House of Commons, 8vo. 5s. cl.
Greig's (J.) Young Ladies' Arithmetic, by S. Maynard, 2s. cl.
Grote's (Geo.) History of Greece, 2 vols. 8vo. 32s. cl.
Hairby's (Dr. J.) Rambles in Normandy, small 8vo. 14s. cl.
Hodson's Hackney Carriage Fares, new edit. 32mo. 1s. cl.
Hutton's Mathematical Tables, 10th edit. royal 8vo. 18s. bds.
Infant Brothers, Abner and David Brown, 8th edit. 18mo. 3s. cl.
Lodge's Portraits of Illustrious Personages of Great Britain, in 8 vols. Vol. I. fc. 8vo. 6s. 6d. cl.
Mohan Lal's Travels in the Panjab, Affghanistan, &c. 8vo. 16s. cl.
Mill (Geo.) On Cultivating the Cucumber and Melon, 3rd edit. 10s. cl.
Michelet's (J.) The People, trans. by Cocks, post 8vo. 9s. cl.; ditto, Cheap Edition, 16mo. 1s. 6d. swd.
O'Neill's Guide to Pictorial Art, 18mo. 1s. 6d. swd.
Palmer's Guide to Government Medicine Chest, 18mo. 1s. swd.
Perceval's (Hon. and Rev. A. P.) Lectures on Ephesians, 12mo. 5s. cl.
Railway Annual for 1846, 12mo. 5s. cl.
Scott's Law and Practice of Railway and Private Bills, 20s. bds.
Shakspeare's Dramatic Art, and his Relation to Calderon and Goethe, trans. from the German of Dr. Ulric, 8vo. 12s. cl.
Sullivan's (Rev. H. W.) Pariah Sermons, 12mo. 6s. cl.
Stock and Sharebroker's and Railway Office Directory, 12mo. 2s. 6d.
Stuart (Rev. J. H.) On the Fifty-fifth Chap. of Isaiah, 12mo. 5s. cl.
Turf Remembrancer, 1846, (Newcastle on-Tyne) 18mo. 2s. cl.
Vidal's (Mrs. F.) Tales for the Bush, 18mo. 5s. cl.
Vileland's Glaneur Français, with Notes, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Watson's Tutor's Assistant, or School Arithmetic, 12mo. 2s. sheep.
Watson's Key to Tutor's Assistant, &c. 12mo. 3s. sheep.
Wilson's (Dr.) Medical Notes on China, 8vo. 10s. cl.
Wilkinson's (Rev. W. F.) University Sermons, fc. 2s. 6d. cl.

CRIME AND ITS REMEDIES.

Two out of the three subjects to which we have heretofore alluded, as making up the duty of society in the matter of crime are, at length, we rejoice to see, taken up in such a form and with such earnestness as seem likely to produce results. These two branches are they which lie at the respective extremities of the matter,—where the exceptional condition touches on the sound and general mass of the social body; and are, therefore, of more importance even than the central question of prison discipline—while they have, unaccountably, been far more completely overlooked.—Immediately after Easter a public meeting is intended to be held, in furtherance of the objects which assembled a body of Noblemen and Gentlemen at the Mansion House, on the 14th of last month, in the cause of the juvenile destitute. As we are anxious that such meeting should have a large attendance, we will abstract, in a few words, some of the statistical arguments which the City Solicitor has brought together in aid of the common-sense theory of the matter. It results from Parliamentary returns and other authentic documents, that, during the present century, in England, the number of commitments and convictions has generally increased in a ratio beyond that of the population:—that the number of *juvenile* criminals is increasing in a degree even exceeding that of the general criminal mass:—that this increase is in an inverse ratio to a cause which should have determined a decrease—the accumulation of national wealth; and in spite of a wider diffusion of education, intellectual, moral, and religious, than at any other period:—and that while it is greatest precisely among those classes of the population (the young) where the latter of these two considerations should have especially told in the opposite direction—it is further remarkable that the former *has* actually had a partial effect of late years in the general diminution of crime, but in respect of *the adult population only*. The very change in the complexion of our criminal calendars too—the difference in the character of the crimes committed—seems to bear upon the subject. Where crimes have even increased in number, they have been of a less aggravated quality and degree—embracing a multiplication of mere *mala prohibita*, and such petty offences as destitution suggests and youth commits.—All these arguments of fact lead to the inference, with which our readers are already familiar, that in the unfriended condition of the pauper young lies the first instigation to juvenile offence, and in the manner of its treatment the developement and confirmation of the disease. The very pity which magistrates, to their honour, have of late expressed for the young culprits whom the law requires them to consign to a criminal's gaol, is unwholesome in its direct and immediate influence; because the language of kindness and sympathy to the starved heart, like the food and housing which the gaol provides for the hungry and the homeless, is only to be purchased by these neglected ones at the price of crime. Think of the strange and wasteful oversight of a society which omits provision or sympathy for its wandering poor till they can claim it in the name of guilt: which makes the breach of its laws a qualification, the gaol a temptation; and so manages the internal arrangements of the latter as to render itself a hotbed of crime—an atmosphere for forcing the immature and infant sin, and developing any diseased principle which may have exhibited itself, or lie latent, in the youthful system! At this point it is that social disease may be most easily, most surely, and most economically arrested. To rescue these young Pariahs on the threshold of crime is the important object now sought—by means of a reformatory establishment, surrounded with appliances and resources for mental, moral, religious, and industrial training: and it is estimated that the child so redeemed may be rendered a valuable member of society, at home or in the colonies, for one-third of the sum which, in plunder, prosecution, imprisonment, and transportation, he would have cost the state had he been left to run the full career of crime. The dispositions by which this moral salvage is to be secured we shall probably discuss when they are more fully matured:—meantime, the principles and some of the details of the scheme Mr. Pearson will be found to have adopted, on proof of their success, from an institution in France, of which we shall give our readers some account in an article following this.

The other branch of the subject to which we have alluded—as lying at the opposite side of the prison—was the occasion of a meeting held at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday last, "To consider of an Appeal to Parliament to carry out the humane object of establishing National Houses of Occupation and Shelter for persons discharged from custody." The *rationale* of this side of the case we have already argued, in our notice of the Worcestershire Prisoners' Relief Society [No. 944]—as we have the part lying between this and the one we have just described, and which relates to the use and management of the prison itself—in our remarks on Captain Maconochie's system of marks [*ante*, p. 199]. A few of the technical arguments put forward in support of this present benevolent proposition may, however, be here stated, as an inducement to our readers in favour of the views of the Association. The chairman, Mr. Sheriff Laurie, said, that one circumstance had struck him strongly in the discharge of his duties—the repeated prosecution of the same individual. This he attributed in a great measure to the circumstances in which such persons were placed. "He felt quite satisfied, from his own experience, that the great majority of those unhappy persons who had taken only the first step in crime would gladly return to the paths of rectitude, were any encouragement held out to them—which, unfortunately, was not the case." No less than 2,000 persons, in London alone, he informed the meeting, are thrown back upon society, every year, by the prison; "the greater part of whom have neither money nor friends, and who, having forfeited their character for honesty, are unable to obtain employment." Why, such persons, shut out from every other profession, are of necessity professional criminals! Society has so cleverly managed her matters that these men form a class apart—the felon class—and *must* "stand by their order," since rejected by all others. The brand of the prison is put upon them, as if to remind them that it is henceforth their natural home and secure their return to it at no distant period. The man whom misfortune, more than crime, may have once made the inmate of a gaol, comes out thenceforth wearing its livery, to distinguish him from the rest of his fellows. As the dog called mad is hunted into madness, so the escaped prisoner is hunted back to prison. Mr. Laurie said, he believed that the legislature was fully impressed with the importance of the subject and willing to listen to any remedy proposed.—We have, heretofore, stated the results which have attended the Worcestershire experiment; where out of 70 persons assisted by the Society on their leaving prison, two only had been recommitted. A similar experiment made by a benevolent individual, Mr. Wright, of Manchester, for the restoration of the discharged prisoner to society, was reported to this meeting, on the authority of Capt. Williams, Inspector of Prisons. Of 96 persons so circumstanced, for whom he had provided employment, four only had returned to crime. All the rest is salvage. If so much can be done by individuals, how much may be done by the State!—and here, as in the previous case, the financial gain comes to reinforce the moral.—The Bishop of London considered the reformation of the criminal to be far more important than the punishment of crime; and wished to save its victims before they come to that last stage which is punished by banishment.—The wisdom of the whole matter is—to redeem all that can be so redeemed at the outer door of the gaol.—to make its inner discipline a means of redeeming more—and to give society and the individual the benefit of that redemption:—to shut up some of the many obvious paths that tend to the prison—opening all those that lead back to society on the other side—and improving the moral drainage and sewerage within.—For the more immediate one of these objects, a committee was appointed, on the occasion in question, to petition Parliament, and communicate with all the corporations in the United Kingdom.

METTRAY.

In discussing the subject of Juvenile Reformatories, reference has been repeatedly made lately to the French Institution of this description at Mettray, near Tours. It may gratify our readers, therefore, if we communicate to them a few particulars regarding this, which we have obtained from an intelligent and benevolent friend recently returned from the continent, and who devoted two days to its inspection.

The "*Colonie Agricole et Pénitentiaire de Mettray*," was founded in 1840, chiefly by private subscription; one individual, the late Count Léon d'Ourches, having bestowed on it no less a sum than 140,000 francs in his own lifetime. The King, the Royal Family, and the principal public boards and officers also contributed. Its object is to receive youth who have committed offence, but been discharged from the central prisons under a benevolent law which, in France, places criminals below a certain age, not under punishment, but under what is called "*discipline correctionelle*." It is, thus, only one of many similar institutions; but it has become remarkable by certain peculiarities of construction and discipline, and by extraordinary success in attaining its object. It is calculated to receive 400 boys; who are not housed in one great building, but are distributed into ten small ones,—the inmates of these being further divided into four parties of ten each, who are trained together, and taught by every means possible to consider themselves members of a family and interested in the conduct of their companions equally with their own. It is to the "social," or it may be also called the "domestic," principle thus involved that M. Demetz, the benevolent director of the establishment, who, we believe, also originally suggested its plan, attributes his great success; but its other arrangements seem equally judicious.

The object aimed at being to give especially a rural education, a considerable extent of land is annexed to the establishment, which is entirely cultivated by the "colonists," as they are termed; and while they are thus taught husbandry practically, their minds are opened to its theories by lectures on all its principal departments. Workshops are also maintained, in which all the principal rural trades—common shoemaking and tailoring included—are taught and exemplified. Reading, writing and arithmetic, and linear drawing are superadded; and the whole is crowned by very careful religious instruction.

The forms of discipline are, as much as possible, persuasive, not coercive. There are no walls,—no

stripes; but a list of honour is kept, into which continued absence of offence for three months gives a title to admission; and cells are attached to the chapel, and thus specially within the persuasive influence of the priest, for the refractory. The whole influence of the families is further enlisted in the cause of order and punctuality. These vie with each other in having the names of their partners exhibited in the approving list; and offence is found to be more checked by being thus rendered unpopular in the community than by any form of restraint proceeding from superiors.

These are the general principles of the Institution at Mettray; but let us now mark their results. According to its last Report, now before us, 521 boys have been admitted into it since its foundation,—of whom 105 were received in the course of last year: 12, having been found incorrigible, have been returned to the central prison from which they were transferred; 17 have died,—of whom 6, strictly speaking, never joined, having been originally received into the Infirmary and never left it; 144 have been discharged to places—7 of these have been re-convicted; 9 are but indifferently conducted; but 128 are without reproach, and promising to do well.

In the interior of the establishment, the success and, by consequence, the excellence of the management are not less manifest. During the last year, three-fifths of the inmates maintained their names on the list of honour; and the religious feelings of all appear powerfully developed. According to the rites of the Catholic Church, a greater degree of solemnity is given to the religious exercises, even of the very young, at different seasons of the year; and a considerable diminution of petty offences is always found to precede these occasions and characterize the preparation for them.

The object being to rear labourers, not scholars, only one hour per day is given to instruction purely intellectual,—but, possibly through this very circumstance, the progress made is very rapid. Of the entire number who have been received, 137 were previously able to read, and 84 to write; but in a very short time after entering, all are made to read, write, and cipher easily and readily; and in mental arithmetic especially their proficiency is even remarkable. Very many draw well; and all study music as a recreation. In church music they are especial proficients. An air of intelligence and good purpose pervades the whole establishment; with a remarkable look of trust and affection towards their benevolent chiefs, M. Demetz and Viscount Bretignières de Courteilles,—the latter of whom originally bestowed the ground on which the establishment stands, and, residing in its near neighbourhood, shares the labours of M. Demetz as resident director.

The revenues of the institution proceed partly from private subscription, partly from an allowance made to it by Government of what each boy would cost per day were he detained in prison; and, exclusive of the cost of new buildings and other permanent improvements, the expense, we are assured, does not very much exceed this latter sum, and is likely to fall below it when the land attached to the institution is brought into full cultivation.

There is a striking resemblance between some of the principles which M. Demetz has here so happily exemplified and those contended for by Captain Maconochie in his various writings on secondary punishment; and the combined testimony of two men who have been each so favourably placed for observation, and who could neither have borrowed from the other, is otherwise valuable than from its mere intrinsic weight. We are obviously on the eve of a great change in the whole tendencies of our criminal treatment. Everything seems to point to this, even the errors made in regard to it:—and we may observe, in reference to that branch of the subject in which Captain Maconochie is a labourer, that the prejudice against the prisoner's return to society will be half removed, and the efforts of those who are seeking to promote it greatly assisted, when the prison shall, under a system of judicious discipline, have become a place in which men are supposed to be made better, instead of worse.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We observe, in the Votes of the Commons, notice given by Mr. Charles Buller of his intention to move, on the 31st inst., for a Select Committee "To inquire into the State of the present Repositories for the Public Records, and the expediency of erecting a General Repository." This question, apparently, was settled at least seven years ago, when the Record Act was passed,—an act founded upon a report, made in 1836, of a Committee of which Mr. Buller was chairman. The Committee then reported, that it had seen "the Public Records deposited in the Tower over a gunpowder magazine, and contiguous to a steam-engine in daily operation; at the Rolls in a chapel where divine service is performed; in vaults two stories under ground at Somerset House; in dark and humid cellars at Westminster Hall; in the stables of Carlton Ride; in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey; in offices surrounded by, and subject to, all the accidents of private dwellings, at [the Augmentation Office and First Fruits." Since this graphic account was written, we have reason to believe that the evils of numerous and unsuitable repositories have been remedied as far as the powers of the Master of the Rolls have enabled him. The records have been taken out of the vaults at Somerset House, and from the Augmentation Office, and placed in the "Stables" of Carlton Ride,—a very unfit place, certainly, but better than three unfit places. But we regret to learn, from the Deputy-Keeper's reports, that the Records are still dispersed in numerous unfit repositories. They remain at the Tower,—where they are exposed not only to gunpowder, but what is, perhaps, more dangerous, the accidents to which military store-houses are always subject. We know what happened, three years ago, in that fortress; when the whole of the Small Armoury was consumed. The Chapel at the Rolls and the adjacent Rolls House are still repositories,—both reported to be incommodious and insecure. The Westminster Chapter House is beginning to tumble down, as we noticed [*ante*, p. 224]; and the Carlton Ride, containing more than one-half our national records, is watched, day and night, by sentries, police, and the fire brigade,—at an annual expense of 600*l.*, as stated by Sir Francis Palgrave, in his Sixth Report (p. 20). It never could have been contemplated by the Act (1 & 2 Vict. c. 94.) that this state of things was to be tolerated for an instant longer than absolutely necessary, when it enacted that the Treasury was to provide suitable and proper additional building or buildings. The reports of the Deputy-Keeper have, year after year, detailed the incessant exertions of the Master of the Rolls to obtain a proper repository. The answer has been always, "Wait,"—"wait till the Victoria Tower is built,"—"wait, and room will be found in the roofs of the Houses of Parliament," (see Deputy-Keeper's Report)—"wait till the Courts of Law are built." Mr. Barry last year found out, and told a committee, that the Victoria Tower would not hold the Records; and so, the Records, instead of being treated on their own merits as the most unrivalled and priceless collection of documents in the civilized world, remain exposed to contingencies to which no prudent possessor of a library would subject his books.—We are glad to see that Mr. Buller has not lost sight of a subject in which his labours already have been so useful.

All the astronomical world is looking out for comets; and so completely has the idea of those meteors taken possession of the scientific mind, that the philosophers are multiplying them by division, and adding to the product by putting tails to the old familiar stars. It is not long since the body of a well-known comet separated, as they aver, and became two; and now there seems some probability that two, which they have recently found, may unite and become one. It does not seem quite clear that Brorsen's Comet and De Vico's are not identical. Meantime, on Sunday last, Sir James South, under the cometary calenture, took a careful observation of the nebula in Andromeda, and published its place in the *Times* of next morning, for the benefit of those who were looking out for Brorsen's Comet. "An Amateur" has since restored the nebula to its constellation; and Sir James has apologized to the public for appropriating a body "known," as he says, "before the invention of telescopes, under pretence of showing them a comet":—from which it will be seen that amateurs have their use in the system of things as well as philosophers.

We have heard so much stress laid on the statement and opinion originally delivered by M. Arago, in favour of the miracles ascribed to Angélique Cotin, that it seems necessary to return to the subject once more, for the purpose of informing those of our readers who are doubters on that ground, that M. Arago has admitted the deception. At another meeting of the Academy of Sciences, held on the 9th inst., he read a note on the part of the commission of which he was a member, declaring the matter to be unworthy of a report, but conveying the result in this less ceremonious form. They who will believe now, says the *Journal des Débats*, must belong to that body of the faithful who are believers *quand-même*. They will have, at any rate, the benefit of the evidence as delivered by M. Arago himself, on referring to our usual report, in this paper, under the head Paris Academy of Sciences.—There is, our readers will observe, in that authorized version, some little difference from the previous newspaper reports; but the result is the same,—and we presume the answer is sufficient to those who quote M. Arago. It is, of course, M. Arago's business, not ours, to reconcile the present statement with the language attributed to him on a former occasion,—and his advice, that the communications shall be treated "as though they had never been received," with the phenomena which he witnessed, as he then said, in consequence of them. They who cling to the miracle will not let him dispose of his former testimony so summarily. For ourselves, we suppose that M. Arago is perfectly convinced now, like M. Tauchon, that he did *not*, on the first occasion, see the things which he *believed* himself to have seen; but his credulity in the matter will have to father a large amount of credulity more tenacious, which even his recantation will fail to exorcise.

We are glad to learn that the Roman Amphitheatre at Dorchester, of whose threatened destruction we spoke a fortnight ago, has been rescued from the sacrifice demanded by the Weymouth Railway. Mr. Brunel, the engineer appealed to on the subject, very readily undertook to make such a deviation of the intended line as should carry it clear of this antique monument.

While, however, our ancient monuments are thus snatched from the sweeping destruction of the great modern agencies, our modern monuments remain at the mercy of a spirit more ancient than all the former—the venerable and time-honoured genius of bigotry. We learn, from the Bristol papers, and from the communications of correspondents, that the Vicar of Redcliff has been seeking distinction, in perhaps the only way in which it presented itself to him—by the removal of the monument to the memory of Chatterton erected by subscription in his churchyard, six years ago. It behoves the subscribers to inquire, as a correspondent of the *Bristol Mercury* suggests, whether an incumbent has the right to remove a monument whose erection has once been permitted—whatever authority he may have had over the original erection. The vicar's consent, in the first instance, is implied by the presence of the monument in its place; and the argument of "hasty erection" is disposed of by an after-acquiescence of six years. "Hasty erection" could only be made good as an objection by a removal equally hasty. It comes too late now to serve as anything but a pretence for a worse reason—and which also should have suggested itself long ago. But leaving all legal and logical considerations out of the question, there is something painful and revolting in this pharisaical demonstration against "the sleepless heart that perished in its pride,"—with which we believe the great body of the vicar's brethren will have no sympathy. These outrages against the unanswering dead belong to the worst days of Roman intolerance. It is not in that law whose precept is charity even to the living, that this presumptuous churchman finds his warrant for condemnation of the dead. The vicar, it seems, expected that a moral lesson would have been inscribed on the monument, as a warning against suicide—or insanity: the removal of the monument, on such a pretence, itself supplies a moral lesson, which many will read—but poor Chatterton does not

furnish its theme.—It is pleasant enough to find intolerance hurting itself with its own weapons, or laying bare its absurd anatomy with its proper scalpel. We have been amused by a story furnished by a Naples correspondent to the *Augsburg Gazette*, too rich to be true, notwithstanding our experience of the follies that bigotry commits in its unreasoning impatience—but which forms, nevertheless, a very fitting pendant in a paragraph like this. Two works on *Galvanism*, it is stated, have been seized by the censorship in Rome, under an idea that they were dangerous propagandists of *Calvinism*.—The Vicar of Redcliff should have been a Roman censor:—Chatterton, his books, his bones, and his memory are all in the Redcliff "Index."

Meantime, the old religious orders militant find, for the most part, no field, in Europe, on which they can revive the traditions of the past,—or even recover the temporalities which made so essential a condition of their spiritual authority in the palmy days of religious association. The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem—which many of our readers may have believed to be only an historical society—have, nevertheless, an obscure existence; and have just been summoned to meet at Vienna, in the course of next month, to consider on a plan proposed for establishing the chief seat of their order in Algeria: with a view to which, the French government is to be applied to for a grant of land, in that settlement, for an agricultural, religious and military foundation.—Amongst ourselves, religious freedom is the order of the general mind. The Senate of the University of Glasgow has agreed to petition Parliament for the repeal of the present Scottish University tests, in so far as they bind, or impede, the consciences of lay professors.

The foreign papers mention the death, at Revel, of the celebrated navigator, Otto von Kotzebue; who had thrice made the circuit of the world, and has written his name on the rolls of geographical discovery. Otto von Kotzebue was, as our readers know, the son of the well-known dramatic writer of the same name.

From Berlin, we hear that the recent exhibition in that city, in celebration of Luther's death-day,—as the anniversary was called,—which we described to our readers a fortnight ago, has suggested the idea of a more permanent commemoration of the great reformer by means of a similar collection. The King has ordered the creation of a Luther Museum, in the capital; in which shall be assembled the numerous objects, the property of the state, relating to the protestant-chief, which are scattered throughout the kingdom: and the erection of an edifice, of gothic architecture, and including a chapel, to be especially devoted to their reception. The rich collection of Lutheran curiosities belonging to Dr. Augustin, the head pastor of the Cathedral of Halberstadt, has been purchased by the government, for the new museum, at a cost of 22,000 thalers—3,520*l.*

The Paris papers speak of a language invented by M. Sudre (whose Telephonic discoveries were exhibited in London some eight years ago), to be spoken by the voice of Cannon; on which he has been experimenting successfully before the Duke de Nemours, at Vincennes,—and which, it is said, might be of great use for the transmission of orders in war-time.—Letters from Berlin mention that the Baron de Hackewitz, who has an establishment there at which galvanoplastic processes are conducted on a large scale, has found the means of manufacturing guns and mortars of any calibre by that proceeding; and that a commission appointed by the Minister at War, with the Baron Alexandre de Humboldt at its head, to examine the invention, has made such a report as has induced the Government to purchase the secret,—which its author has valued at 36,000 thalers (nearly 6,000*l.*)

The bills for the park and embankment at Battersea are, it appears, about to be accompanied by one for a bridge to cross the river between the Red House and Chelsea Hospital,—communicating with the Middlesex part of the capital by the line of Sloane-street. A further measure, involving extensive powers vested in the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, will, the *Times* informs us, enable them to erect on the Surrey side of the river a succession of villas, crescents, squares, and streets,—in execution of certain parts of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the means of improving the metropolis.

Five candidates have been recently proposed for election at the Society of Antiquaries.—Mr. Bruce, a member of the Committee of the Archæological Association, was balloted for, and admitted without opposition.—Another gentleman, a member of the Association, was also admitted without opposition.—The next candidate was Mr. Vaux, M.A., of Baliol College, Oxford; for many years an officer in the department of Antiquities in the British Museum. He received twenty-one white and eighteen black balls; and as it is necessary for admission that two-thirds of the balls should be white, he was, of course, not admitted.—The next candidate was a member of the Association, and admitted without opposition.—The last candidate was a dignitary of the Church, and a vice-president of the Archæological Institute. He was admitted, but not without some black balls.—It appears, then, that, while the members of the *Institute* have scrupulously abstained from introducing Archæological quarrels into the Society of Antiquaries, the members of the Association have resolved to pursue a different course. We have been assured that more than one of the latter party declared, on the evening of the ballot, that their objection to Mr. Vaux was the zealous support he had given to the Institute; and the same motives have since been publicly avowed by a writer signing himself "F. S. A." As Mr. Vaux was thus rejected on grounds which in no way concerned the Society of Antiquaries, it has been resolved to propose him again as a candidate: his certificate, very numerously signed, is now suspended in the meeting-room; and the ballot for his election will take place on Thursday evening, the 2nd of April. It now rests with the Fellows of the Society to show, by their votes on that occasion, whether they will allow a small party in the Association to introduce their quarrels into the Society's rooms, and to dictate to the Society who shall or who shall not be admitted members.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.

The Gallery, for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN daily from Ten till Five.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 1*s.* WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.—REDUCED PRICE of ADMITTANCE.—Now OPEN, with a highly interesting exhibition, representing the CASTLE and TOWN of HEIDELBERG (formerly the residence of the Electors Palatine of the Rhine) under the various aspects of Winter and Summer, Mid-day and Evening; and the exterior view of the CATHEDRAL of NOTRE DAME at Paris, as seen at Sunset and by Moonlight, and which has been so universally admired. Both pictures are painted by the late Chevalier Renoux. Open from 10 till 5. Admittance to view both Pictures—Saloon, 1*s.*; Stalls, 2*s.* as heretofore.

The CAMPAIGN on the SUTLEJ creating immense interest at the present moment, there are exhibiting at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, Portraits of the most distinguished Men both in the SIKH ARMY and GOVERNMENT of LAHORE, taken by a lady of rank, distinguished in the Fine Arts, during her residence in India. Also, Portraits of Sir Henry Hardinge, Sir Robert and Lady Sale, &c. By means of the OPAQUE MICROSCOPE, these interesting portraits are on a magnificent scale. Mornings, at Half-past Four o'clock; Evenings, at a Quarter to Ten. The LECTURES include those on ASTRONOMY, during Lent on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, COLEMAN'S WORKING MODEL, ascending and descending Inclined Planes, &c. &c.—Admission, 1*s.*, Schools, Half-price.

GENERAL TOM THUMB will shortly Close his Farewell Levees at the EGYPTIAN HALL. His weight is only fifteen pounds, and he is the most enchanting little being living. He has had the distinguished honour of appearing three times before Her Majesty, and has performed before all the principal courts of Europe. The little General appears in all his performances every Day and Evening from Half-past 12 to 2; Half-past 3 to 5; Half-past 7 to 9.—Admission, 1*s.*; Children, Half-price.

His engagement at the Lyceum Theatre does not interfere with his evening levees, which close at the Egyptian Hall at 9 o'clock.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.—*Feb.* 26, and *March* 5.—The Marquis of Northampton, President, in the chair.—Lieut. Kay, R.N., and Major Moore were elected Fellows. The following paper was read: 'Illustrations of the Viscous Theory of Glaciers,' by J. D. Forbes, Esq. Part III. The author inquires, in this part, into the motion of those comparatively small isolated glacial masses, reposing in the cavities of high mountains, or on *cols*, and called by De Saussure glaciers of the second order. A glacier of this description, in the neighbourhood of the Hospice du Simplon, lodged in a niche on the northern face of the Schoenhorn, immediately behind the Hospice, and at an elevation of about 8,000 feet above the sea, was selected for observation. The average velocity of its descent was found to be about one inch and a half in twenty-four hours; those parts in which the slope was 20° moving with a velocity about one-third greater than those in which the slope was 10°. The author next enters into general views on the annual motion of glaciers; and on the influence of seasons; and gives tabular details of the observations made with reference to these questions, at two stations; the one on the Glacier des Bossons, and the other at the Glacier des Bois, which is the outlet of the Mer de Glace, towards the valley of Chamouni. In both these glaciers, the motion in summer exceeds that in winter in a greater proportion as the station is lower, and consequently exposed to more violent alternations of heat and cold. He also found that the variations of velocity due to season are greatest where the variations in the temperature of the air are greatest, as in the lower valleys; excepting, that variations of temperature below the freezing point produce scarcely any appreciable change in the rate of motion of the ice. He concludes with some general illustrations of the plastic or viscous theory of glacier motion. A glacier, he contends, is not a mass of fragments, or parallelopipedons, neither is it a rigidly solid body; and although it may be extensively intersected by crevices, these "crevasses" are comparatively superficial, and do not disturb the general continuity of the mass in which they occur. The water contained in these crevices is only the principal vehicle of the force which acts upon it; and the irresistible energy with which the whole icy mass descends, from hour to hour, with a slow but continuous motion, bespeaks of itself the operation of a fluid pressure acting on a ductile or plastic material.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—*March* 9.—Lord Colchester, President, in the chair.—S. Cunard, E. Cunard, M. R. Robinson, and H. F. Ingram, Esqrs. and the Bishop of Oxford, were elected Members.

The first paper read was, 'Remarks on the Isthmus of Mount Athos and the Canal of Xerxes,' by Lieut. Spratt, R.N. This canal was excavated by the monarch in order to avoid the danger to his fleet of rounding the promontory of Mount Athos. That such a work was ever undertaken, has been doubted, and the veracity of Herodotus on this subject disputed. But the testimony of Choiseuil Gouffier, Dr. Hunt, and Colonel Leake, and the late examination by Mr. Spratt, place the matter at rest. "On the 27th of August," says Lieut. Spratt, "we entered the gulf of Mount Athos (now Monte Santo), and sailing within the wooded island of Muillani, anchored off the southern extremity of the canal. The central part of the isthmus, through which the canal was cut, is hilly, and from the uncertainty which must have existed as to the nature of these hills and the obstacles they might oppose, we learn to estimate the boldness of the monarch's design. That part of the isthmus through which the canal is cut, is a bed of tertiary sands and marls; so that this work of the Persian king, so extolled by ancient authors, is insignificant, compared to many works of the present day. Evidences of the work are still to be seen in different places, more particularly towards the centre of the isthmus, where there is a succession of swampy hollows which run in nearly a straight line across, and are from 2 to 8 feet deep and from 60 to 90 broad; these may be traced nearly to the top of the rise, where all evidences of the canal are destroyed by a road leading to the promontory. Two or three other tracks or paths cross the site of the canal at different points, and have had a similar effect. The highest part of the isthmus through which the canal was cut is 51 feet above the sea. The traces of the canal are less visible on the northern portion of the isthmus, but still a chain of hollows can be traced, having a decidedly artificial character. Through the plain the traces have disappeared, and the mouths of the canal have been obliterated by the action of the sea and its sands. The distance between the two shores is 2,500 yards; but the canal, being slightly oblique, was somewhat longer than this." From the subject of the canal itself, Lieut. Spratt proceeds to speak of the cities of Sane and Uranopolis, which were in its neighbourhood, and of the ruins which he discovered. A mound is also mentioned, which is conjectured to be the tomb erected by the army of Xerxes in honour of Artachæus, the chief director of the canal, who died while the King was staying at Acanthus; the latter ordered its erection, it is said, to show his esteem for the individual who had so ably carried out the design of the monarch. The paper ends with a geological account of the peninsula of Athos.

The second paper was the first portion of 'An

Account of the Tribes of the Northern Coast of Australia,' of which we shall give an account when the paper shall be concluded.—The subject drew from Capt. Owen Stanley, who was well acquainted with the locality, a great deal of *vivâ voce* information.

Geological Society.—*Feb.* 23.—The President, Mr. Horner, in the chair.—G. E. H. Vernon, Esq. and J. Jeffreys, Esq. were elected Fellows.—A memoir was read 'On the Tertiary Formations of the Isle of Wight,' by J. Prestwich, Jun. Esq.—The superposition of the middle and upper beds of the eocene period is nowhere so well seen as in the coast sections of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and the subdivisions here marked may serve as the best types for working out the geology of the London district. The author, after stating the results obtained by former observers, exhibited in succession the developement of the organic remains conjointly with the changes of lithological character and dip, with reference chiefly to the period of the disturbances by which the beds have been affected. There was probably a slow and quiet deepening of the sea bottom, commencing at least as early as the deposit of the Bognor beds, continuing throughout the overlying marine sands and clays, and then gradually ceasing, or, at least, diminishing, as we approach the fluvio-marine strata; so that the estuary then became filled up, and the sea occasionally barred out. With regard to the powerful disturbance which has produced the vertical strata of Alum Bay and Whitecliff Bay, the author states that no unconformability of superposition has thence resulted, all the beds having been affected in the same ratio, though not to the same extent. From the position of the beds at present, it appears that the elevation must have resulted from a disturbance acting in a north and south direction—that it took place subsequently to the deposit of the whole Isle of Wight tertiary series, but that there is no evidence to show its exact age. It must have been of considerable violence and short duration, and totally unlike those which were going on throughout the whole of the period of deposit of the eocene beds. The author considers it doubtful whether the usually received grouping of the Isle of Wight beds, as contemporaneous with those of the foreign tertiaries, can now be maintained; and states that although the evidence is conflicting, it is probable that they were older than has been supposed. He is inclined to consider the freshwater and estuary strata of the Isle of Wight as synchronous, or nearly so, with the upper calcaire grossier, although he is aware that there is no identity of fossils. The beds in the Paris basin, containing fresh-water fossils, are far richer in species than those in the English tertiaries; and of the very small number of common species, only half are characteristic, and several range down into the lower beds; while out of thirty known Isle of Wight species, as many as twenty are common to the calcaire grossier, and some of these are characteristic. It also appears that several of the most abundant species in the upper beds of Whitecliff Bay are met with lower down in the series, and that no positive line of separation can be drawn there between the London clay and the overlying beds, these passing palæontologically into one another. The Bracklesham beds, which apparently correspond with the central or London clay strata of Whitecliff Bay, exhibit a group of fossils approaching far more closely to those of the calcaire grossier and glauconie grossiere than to those of the upper beds of the calcaire grossier. They might even be placed lower in the scale than this, from the result of an examination of about one hundred species with the French analogues.

A notice was read accompanying a specimen of a calcareous band in the plastic clay from the bed of the Thames, by G. Rennie, Esq. This fossiliferous band of calcareous sand occurs in the river in Limehouse Reach. It is of no great thickness, but is mischievous as forming a shoal dangerous to steam vessels at low water.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Sat. Asiatic Society, 2, P.M.
Mon. Geographical Society, half-past 8.
— British Architects, 8.
— Royal Academy, 8.—Sculpture.
Tues. Civil Engineers, 8.—'On the Estuary of the River Severn,' by W. Parkes.
Wed. Geological Society, half-past 8.
— Society of Arts, 8.
Thur. Royal Society, half-past 8.
— Society of Antiquaries, 8.
— Royal Society of Literature, 4.
— Numismatic Society, 7.
— Royal Academy, 8.—Painting.
Fri. Archæological Institute, 4.
— Royal Institution, half-past 8.—Dr. Playfair 'On the Bulk of Bodies, and Nature of Differences between unlike forms of the same Body, such as Diamond, Graphite, Coke.'

FINE ARTS

The Art of Fresco Painting, as practised by the Old Italian and Spanish Masters, with a Preliminary Inquiry into the Nature of the Colours used in Fresco Painting. By Mrs. Merrifield. London, C. Gilpin; Brighton, Wallis.

The work of Cennino Cennini, introduced to the British public by Mrs. Merrifield, and received with so much approbation, has been worthily succeeded by the present. Full of enthusiasm for her subject, with a capacity to discriminate between the confused meaning of various authors, and possessed of acquired talents that opened to her the treasures of three or four languages, she has brought together in one small volume a large mass of interesting scientific details concerning Fresco Painting, interspersed with notes and anecdotes, that not merely offer testimony affecting points in dispute, but mingle therewith the charms of history.

The introduction opens with a due acknowledgment of the valuable papers contained in the Reports of the Royal Commissioners on the Fine Arts. These induced the authoress to pursue the inquiry; and as fresco painting—which all writers concur in representing as the highest branch of the Art—is, in her opinion, destined to call up a great English School, "these considerations," she remarks, "added to the favourable reception of my translation of Cennino Cennini on painting, encouraged me to follow the path of inquiry traced out in the Reports of the Commissioners. By long discontinuance the art had become almost entirely lost. The practice of painting on walls, in the manner described by Vitruvius, that is, partly in *fresco*, and partly in *secco*, appears to have been continued throughout the dark ages by the Greeks, who instructed the Italians. According to Zanetti, the Greek style was taught by a Greek artist of Constantinople, who, about the year 1200, kept a school for painting at Venice, to which many foreigners resorted for instruction; and from the same author we learn that the Greek style was practised until the middle of the fourteenth century. The earliest modern writer whose work has been preserved is Theophilus, a monk, who is supposed to have lived between the ninth and thirteenth centuries, but the exact period is unknown. He professes to teach 'all the knowledge of the Greeks respecting colours.' A manuscript, which I examined in the Bibliothèque Royale, at Paris, dated in 1431, contains a version, in old French, of some parts of the work of Theophilus, which shows that his treatise had then become known. The following series comprise the principal authors who have treated practically on fresco painting:—

Theophilus MS. between the years ..	1000-1300
MS. in the Bibliothèque Royale	1431
Cennino Cennini MS. (published in 1821) ..	1437
Leo Batista Alberti	1485
Vasari	1547
Guevara	1550-1557
Borghini	1584
Armenini	1587
Cespedes	1608
Pacheco	1641
Pozzo	1693-1702
Palomino	1715-1724
Mengs	1779

Commencing, therefore, with Theophilus, the series of writers on fresco painting embrace the periods of its commencement, progress, and decline. I believe there is no important practical point which has not been explained by some one or other of the above series of authors, most of whom were also artists. The reader will be able to judge, by the extracts in this work, how perfectly the practical part of the art had been preserved and transmitted, by a succession of authors, treating expressly or incidentally on the subject. Between the period when Cennino wrote his treatise and the publication of the work of Vasari, the art had advanced rapidly. Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raphael, and Correggio, had lived and died. The Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, and the Duomo of Parma, had been painted. The practice of fresco painting was changed in some important points. Cartoons were prepared with the greatest care, the figures being drawn either from the life, or from models in clay, from which, when placed on the wall, the picture was traced, and correctness of outline secured. The old custom of painting much of the drapery in secco was discountenanced, and the perfection of fresco painting, as far as concerned the mechanical part of the art, was considered by the best writers on the subject to consist in completing the picture at once in fresco, without retouching it in secco. The practice, however, of retouching in secco was at no period wholly discontinued, except by a few very expert artists, formed chiefly in the school of the Carracci."

To those painters who may be desirous in their experimental practice to compare notes as to the methods adopted during all these stages of Italian Art, the preliminary disquisition offers abundant store; chemical, artistical, and historical treatises having been consulted and sifted with judgment. There is evidently much difficulty, on account of the variations in the nomenclature adopted at different periods, in making any sure estimate of the nature of the various colours, but one conclusion is safely drawn, that,—

"None but natural earthy colours can be used with safety and propriety in fresco painting, that these colours are not brilliant, but rather the contrary, and that they derive their beauty from the harmony of the arrangement, and the judicious opposition of the colours. Cennino and others praise certain colours which they say are equal to lake in fresco; they are right, because the colours to which they allude will appear like lake when skilfully contrasted with the other colours used in this kind of painting, but if compared with the colours we call lake and carmine, I have no doubt they would be found very dissimilar. The Amatito and burnt Roman vitriol will harmonize well with the ochres and other earths, but if lake were used (supposing it could be used in fresco), it would, like the bright blue in the frescoes of Romanelli in the Louvre, and those of the Carracci, be out of harmony with the rest of the picture."

Another remark follows, which is quite as much to the point:—

"Titian and Raffaello used chiefly earths and common colours even in painting in oil, instead of the more expensive and brilliant colours. No one capable of forming an opinion can suppose they would have preferred the former to the latter, if they had not had the best and most convincing reasons for so doing. We are all too much inclined to seek the perfection of colouring in the pigments themselves, instead of in the harmonious combination and opposition of the several colours, and to attribute to the vehicle and colours the effect which the skill of the artist alone can produce."

No one would choose a particular art *because* of its difficulties; but an instance may happen where there exist unparalleled advantages on one side united on the other with difficulties that, making success a triumph, insure at the same time a constant exercise of the highest powers of reflection, skill, and foresight. Such is the case with Fresco. If, as Vasari said, "of all kinds of painting it is the finest and most masterly," it is also most encumbered with sources of trial and disappointment. There is but one sure road therein to victory. Its luminous qualities flow of necessity from the art itself; but tone, execution, and perfection of colour spring from earnest studies, determination of thought, and unflinching facility of hand. Such necessities impose upon the artist a disregard of all that is petty in execution, and rivet his attention upon the grander qualities of form and expression. Without yielding to Mrs. Merrifield's enthusiastic expectation, that "Fresco Painting will succeed, and be most extensively practised in this country," we do most cordially join in the hope that it may be so. It would do more to work a reformation of taste in this country than all the lecturings and rhapsodies of the pen upon "high art" could ever effect. There are certainly some signs of favourable augury for the future; those, however, who hold the reins of patronage will do well to reflect that it is only by *opportunely* that the knowledge of fresco can be made effective for its practice. While, therefore, we hail this second contribution of Mrs. Merrifield to Art-literature with a consciousness that such publications are an earnest

of influences at work in the right direction, it is also welcome on the score of presenting in compendious form a great amount of lore that was previously embodied in unwieldy volumes, scattered pages, and different languages. The preparation of cartoons, the application of gold, the formation of scaffolding, retouchings—every topic, in fact, will be found under the various authors' names whose works are here extracted from. There is some little unnecessary repetition in this portion of the work; there might have been a careful weeding; but the selections, waiving this, are made with judgment, and the "Extracts and Illustrations," which conclude this useful volume, abound with interesting matter.

THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS ON THE FINE ARTS.

It was our first intention to pass over this Report with so much notice only as might suffice for acquainting the reader with the actual results at which that Commission had arrived. Further consideration induces us to believe that our readers are entitled to know what we think of the several propositions that have been submitted to the Queen. We think, too, that the interests of Art, which to us are most precious, and which we desire to promote, earnestly, sincerely, but, at the same time, cautiously and judiciously, will gain something from the candid setting-forth of those comments which that important document suggests. Let us, therefore, be understood not to undervalue the actual services of the distinguished persons who compose the Commission, nor to be altogether insensible to the advantages that will follow from the mere fact that they have identified themselves with the progress of Art, if we deal out to this Report the like criticism and strictures which it would have received from us, had it been the production of persons less exalted and less powerful.

The first recommendation, that six arched compartments in the House of Lords be decorated with fresco paintings, has our unqualified approval. It is an acknowledgment of the principle, that fresco painting is the appropriate ornament of such a building; it is the first step towards the creation of a school of high Art in this country; it is the first practical attempt to elevate the national taste, as well as to refine it. Had the proposition been of a different kind—had paintings in fresco been rejected as unfit, or, haply, as impossible—our artists, who are so far traders that they must produce saleable pictures, or starve, would have been tempted back to that style of sickly sentiment and masked sensuality with which all advancement is incompatible; that style which its professors call refined, and charitable people designate as pretty; but which we hold to be little better than ballet dancing. To adorn the Houses of Parliament with fresco paintings is to tell the artists that henceforth there will be glory and reward for him that shall grandly treat themes of grandeur.

The second proposition is, that the execution of the fresco-painting should be proceeded with gradually, "and that one should be completed before others are commenced: there would thus be an opportunity of judging of the finished work." This does not appear to us to be a happily-conceived notion. If but one fresco be executed at a time, a fair opportunity of judging it with reference to the ultimate effect which it will produce will not be afforded by the mere fact that it is finished. Its effect will depend on many other circumstances, and particularly on the paintings with which the other five compartments shall eventually be filled up. If the object was to ascertain whether a given artist could properly paint in fresco a given subject, or whether a given design would be in the abstract effective when executed *in fresco*, the artist, or an artist, as the case might be, should have received a commission to paint the subject in a frame, or in some place where an imperfect result would not have been notorious or painful. If, on the other hand, the object was to ascertain the eventual effect of a given design, then some measures should have been taken for insuring due co-ordination between that design and the others with which it would finally be associated. If the Commissioners have not determined on the designs for the other compartments; and if the design which is to be executed is not one part of some great whole of which those others are the complement,—then, either the five other compartments must be made subordinate in subject and in style to the design which is to be executed, or there will not be the unity of design, and the consent and concurrence towards a single object, which the paintings in such a room ought to have. If, on the other hand, the particular design is but a part of some larger design which also comprehends the other five, then, not only is there not any reason why the several paintings should not, assuming that there are artists capable of doing them, be proceeded with simultaneously, but there is every possible technical reason why they should be so proceeded with. Further, if the particular design is but one of several that together make up a whole, why is the real and dominant subject concealed? Again: assuming, and for argument's sake only, that there are not artists capable of painting the other five compartments, that is not a reason why all the designs should not be ascertained and approved of before any one is executed.

The third proposition is, that the execution of the first fresco be committed to Mr. Dyce, and "that the subject be that of the Cartoon exhibited by him, viz., 'The Baptism of Ethelbert,' with any alternation in the details which may appear to Mr. Dyce advisable." As the subject allotted to Mr. Dyce is to be executed, it is very right that he execute it; but either the style which Mr. Dyce has adopted is the one which all along the Commissioners desired, or it is not. If it be, then is it not much to be deplored that the fact was not earlier known? If it be not, the Commissioners might, we think, have made some statement of their reasons for preferring the particular style, especially as such a statement, without being in any way uncomplimentary to Mr. Dyce, would have been grateful to the feelings of those artists whom the Commissioners appear to have postponed. The choice of subject, and the selection of a work so peculiar in style as that of Mr. Dyce, give much additional force to the remarks which the second proposition elicited from us. The style, we think, unfortunately chosen. "He who treads only in the footsteps of another, must remain behind," said Michael Angelo. What progress can there be when men are tempted to a display of antiquarianism, instead of being taught to think for themselves; to embody their own conceptions in their own fashion, and to imitate antiquity by being, with equal distinctiveness, true to their own times, wants, and ideas? Quaint forms of Art will as little as quaint forms of speech rouse the feelings or engage the understandings of the men that now are.

The fourth proposition is thus stated:—"Being desirous to afford opportunities for the further practice of fresco-painting, and for the cultivation of the style of design which is fitted for it, we propose that a hall, in your Majesty's palace at Westminster, called the Upper Waiting Hall, should be decorated with fresco paintings; provided the architecture and the light should, on the completion of the apartment, be found adapted for the purpose; and we propose that the subjects of such paintings should have reference to the general character of decoration intended for the locality. We beg leave to commit the execution of five of the said works to C. W. Cope, A.R.A., J. C. Horsley, J. R. Herbert, A.R.A., J. Severn, and J. Tenniel, jun., who, we consider, have distinguished themselves as designers or as fresco painters in one or more of the various exhibitions that have taken place with reference to the decoration of the Palace of Westminster." Now, 1st, the opportunities for practice should have been given at the commencement, as more than once we have suggested; 2nd, Mr. Maclise is lost to the work by an arrangement which tells Mr. Dyce to paint and others to "practise;" 3rd, There is no reason at all founded on the Exhibitions why Mr. Herbert should be preferred, seeing that he distinguished himself by a want of punctuality, which is a dangerous quality in a painter of fresco; 4th, the selection of others, considering who are not chosen, and what they have done, is somewhat unaccountable. They may be very proper persons to practise fresco, but there are at least a score of the exhibitioners as well or better entitled to be paid for practising, on the ground of promise held out by their works.

Fine Art Gossip.—The annual Exhibition of the works of living artists in Paris, commenced on Monday last; the number of these submitted to the decision of the jury having been so great as to compel a postponement from the 15th,—for which day the opening had been announced. The rejections have been upwards of 2,000! The Exhibition, as finally constituted, consists of 1,833 pictures, including portraits—273 miniatures, paintings in water-colours, on china, &c.—173 pieces of sculpture—and 130 copper-plate engravings and lithographs.—M. Horace Vernet's Battle of Isly is, as was hoped would be the case, a feature of the Exhibition: and we may mention, among its novelties of interest, a statue of a *Danseuse*, by M. Pradier,—in which he has attacked not merely a principle of taste, but one of the generally recognized canons of sculpture, by the introduction of gilding, and even painting, on the garments of the figure; and a tracing from Raphael's picture of the Last Supper recently discovered at Florence, and which Signor Jesi has copied for engraving. Referring to the yearly increase in the number of pictures submitted for admission to the Louvre, M. Delécluze has some remarks in the *Journal des Débats*, on the tendency of such annual exhibitions,—which are deserving of attention. As the cultivation of the Arts, he says, has become throughout Europe, a very active branch of industry,—considered in that point of view, a supply so considerable may be regarded as a subject for congratulation. But in an artistic light, the question changes its complexion: "and when we reflect that nearly 5,000 works are executed in the short space of ten months, between exhibition and exhibition,—that is to say, from fifteen to sixteen compositions per day,—we are tempted to ask, Whither will all this lead? and what is to become of Art, thus hurried forward by a production so rapid and even now so exuberant? This prodigious activity of artists, within a given time, and that so restricted, has also occasioned the discontinuance of certain useful habits formerly established. Painters and statuaries have no longer leisure, before the opening of the salon, to let their works be seen; and amateurs and critics cannot find time, in the five or six days of previous exhibition now to be had in their work-rooms, to pay the two or three hundred visits of inspection to which they are invited."—M. Delécluze's remark is a text worthy of a serious argument.

A correspondent of the *Times* announces the arrival at Boodroom, in Asia Minor, the ancient Halicarnassus, of a vessel commissioned to convey to England an addition to the treasures of ancient sculpture which this country already possesses, of the highest interest and value. These ancient marbles are supposed to have formed a part of the tomb erected by Artemisia to the memory of her husband Mausolus—a monument which, in the days of the Kings of Caria, was considered one of the wonders of the world; and which has conferred its name upon all sepulchres of the class that have succeeded. Four different architects were employed upon its four several sides—Scopas on the east, Timotheus on the south, Leochares on the west, and Brucis on the north. Pithis erected a pyramid over the splendid mass,—the top of which was adorned by a chariot with four horses: and the prodigious cost of the whole drew from the philosopher Anaxagoras the exclamation,—"How much money changed into stones!" The fragments on their way to England are so remarkable an accession to our specimens of the past magnificence of Art, that we are tempted further to borrow from the correspondent of the *Times*, who is a member of the expedition for their removal, a variety of interesting particulars which he furnishes. "The marbles," he says, "were found inside the fortress, and built into the ramparts, and counter-scarp and bastions, at various heights from the ground, varying from 40 feet to 12 feet; are of considerable size, being from 7 feet by 5 feet, and of great thickness, varying from 25 to 46 cwt., and 14 in number. * * Three of the friezes were outside, facing the north; one was embedded under a high wall on the left side of the second entrance; three were under the drawbridge leading to the citadel; three more were taken from an outer wall of a moat or trench; two from the right of a wall in the fourth portal; and two from the south-east wall. They were thickly coated with whitewash, to correspond with the rest of this stronghold of chivalrous knights;

and the greater part resisted, for some time, the impression tried to be made upon them in loosening the brickwork for their extraction. It may here be mentioned, that the citadel of Boodroom, as it is called, has, on its various walls, ramparts, and bastions, many shields in marble, and near to every one of the antiquities were specimens of the same. No doubt they were considered by the holders as ornaments to their heraldic devices, and their position evidently bespoke that they were so placed as a commemoration of some gallant achievement of the warrior who defended that particular spot. In the inside of the largest tower there appeared one with the figure of St. George and the Dragon, having on each of its sides nine lesser shields; and over the first gate of the drawbridge one betokened that the knight had served in Palestine,—bearing underneath the following inscription :—

I. H. S.
Salve nos, Domine, vigilantes;
Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem
Frustra vigilat qui custodit.

Leaving, however, these mementos of peculiar interest, it may be mentioned that the figures on the marbles are in a very masterly style. The majority of them are sadly defaced by time, weather, and lime. From their character, they are evidently meant as a picture of the wars of the Amazons. A few are in a state of preservation, and present to the eye a rare specimen of the sculpture of the age in which they were executed." — While speaking of Asiatic Art, we may mention that M. Batissier, author of several works on Archæology and the Fine Arts, is about to undertake a journey of similar researches through Syria and Asia Minor, under the especial patronage of the French Minister of Public Instruction.

The Paris papers mention the death of the Chevalier Renoux—a painter of whose skill our readers have the opportunity of satisfying themselves by a visit to the pictures just now exhibiting at the Diorama.

We spoke, last week, of the new French School of Art established at Athens, in execution of a former regulation which had prescribed that one of the three years hitherto spent by the prize-students of the Paris Academy in Rome, should be for the future devoted to the study of Greek Art in its own capital. We now find it stated, by the *Moniteur des Arts*, that an extension of this design for the education of its artists, is in contemplation of the French government. According to the scheme, as reported by that paper, the Athenian Academy is to have an independent, not supplementary, organization; and the Paris laureates are to complete their three years, as heretofore, at Rome,—having the further benefit of two years' additional study at Athens, on their termination.

The four colossal statues intrusted to the chisel of Professor Petitot for erection at the four corners of the Pont du Carousel, in Paris, are now finished. They are all sitting figures, and severally represent the city of Paris, the Seine, Plenty, and Industry. Paris wears her mural crown, — is seated in a vessel, to indicate her origin,—has the *bâton* of command in her right hand,—and leans with her left on a sword. The Seine is, as usual, a nymph, sitting by her urn,—and with an oar in her hand. Industry has the hammer in her hand, and her foot upon a wheel:—and Plenty has a horn, filled with the fruits of various lands, suspended from her arm,—and on her knees a case, filled with precious jewels; while her feet rest on rich and luxurious cushions, and by her side are a lyre, rolls of paper, a palette and pencils,—as attributes of the Arts which follow in her train. All these things the treatment may help to enhance,—as it is said to do; but certainly they imply no very formidable outlay of invention.—While on the subject of Paris Art, we may mention that a medal in honour of Count Molé is about to be struck, at the Mint, by M. Caunois; presenting merely the profile and name of the statesman on one side, and on the reverse recording him as having been a Peer, Minister, and Academician :— that the statue of Immortality, from the chisel of Cortot, which figured at the funeral of the Emperor, in 1840, on the steps of the Chamber of Deputies, is about to be cast in bronze, and placed on the summit of the dome of the Pantheon :—and that the statue of Larrey, by David, for the Court of the Val-de-Grâce, is finished, and about to be cast in bronze. The Baron is represented in his costume as a military surgeon—pressing to his heart a roll, on which are inscribed Napoleon's words of testimonial:—"Larrey is certainly the most honest man I have ever known." The base of the statue will have four bas-reliefs—representing the four great battles in which the Baron shared.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Philharmonic Concerts.—Without unnecessary words or exaggeration, it may be stated as past question, that the first Philharmonic Concert established Sig. Costa in the foremost rank of conductors of classical music, and justified the Directors in their choice. As we somewhat mistrusted the discretion of his appointment, it behoves us emphatically to say, that we have heard no Philharmonic performance to compare with Monday's. The orchestra is entirely under the control of Sig. Costa's *bâton*, and the difference of such a discipline made itself felt, ere Haydn's simple old Symphony in B flat, No. 9, had been played. We felt conscious of an alertness and a submissiveness, a delicacy and a spirit new to the Hanover Square Rooms; of a near approach to the highest continental style of finish, such as is produced at Leipsig under Mendelssohn, and at Paris under Habeneck. To assert that Sig. Costa understands the duties of his office better than some of his predecessors, would be an absurd no less than an "odious" comparison; but there can be no mistake as to his success in the carrying of good purposes into effect; and none, we believe, whether of Old England or Young England—*Philo*-Germans or *Philo*-Gauls—will dispute the fact. Then, to ourselves, who were not convinced by the experiments at the Opera last year, of Sig. Costa's due sympathy for great German compositions, it was agreeable to remark a much freer and more expressive handling of the music than we had expected—an increase of temperance—there being merely one or two *sforzandi* a little over-loud, for future experience to correct:—and all this without the slightest sacrifice of intelligence or animation. So splendid was the effect of the 'Oberon' Overture, that an uproarious *encore* was inevitable. The '*Eroica* Symphony,' too, was a noble performance. In all the movements, the inner parts came out with a readiness of reply and clearness of delivery, which went far to fill up the finest conceptions of the composition. The first *allegro* was taken a little more moderately than usual: and the delivery of its second subject was another approach made by the band to the required sensitiveness. The slight *rallentando* (as we are explicitly informed by Herr Schindler, one of the effects insisted upon by the composer) was brought about with the utmost nicety. The impressiveness of the March was attested by the breathless silence of the audience. Further, it is new for us to chronicle such finish in accompaniment as distinguished the Philharmonic band on Monday. M. Sainton's masterly performance of Spohr's violin Concerto, No. 11, had the advantage of the steadiest and most sensitive support: while Miss Williams and her sister and Mr. Rafter (who, at a moment's warning, took Mr. Lockey's duty,) were assisted—instead of being, according to old fashion, overborne—by the orchestra. Let Sig. Costa, therefore, flourish (his *bâton*) not only in the Philharmonic, but in as many other orchestras and among as many singers as desire life and not languor. In short, we rarely recollect an evening which went off so brilliantly. The pieces of music sung were, 'O cara immagine,' Curschmann's *terzetto*, 'Ti prego,' and the somewhat well-worn duett from Rossini's 'Stabat:' some fresher vocal music might have been selected. We cannot close this notice without a word in praise of another innovation of vital importance hitherto described as impossible; namely, the abolition of leaderships, and thus of a separate interest on the part of the *violino primo* for the night. So long have we been asking for this, that we cannot but feel singular pleasure at seeing that realized which was asserted as Utopian.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—Had we encountered the new importations who figured in 'Ernani' on Tuesday, anywhere else than in the Haymarket, we should have bestowed upon them the charity of silence; but the claims of artists before whom a trumpet is blown, on their crossing the threshold of the costliest place of entertainment in Europe, challenge attention. Signora Pasini is a small lady, with a sour soprano voice, sharper and shriller as it mounts above the line. She is neither a good musician nor a good executant. Sig. Castigliano has a mediocre tenor voice. We do not speak without recollection, in asserting that many a better-tutored vocalist might have been brought from before Florian's in St. Mark's Place, or Donay's at Florence. Sig. Bencich, the new baritone, trades on a lusty voice, which was not in tune on Tuesday, and a redundancy of the conventional Italian gestures. He is by many months' practice more crude than Sig. Botelli, though sounding almost agreeable when compared with his comrades. By the side of the three, Sig. Fornasari is a Triton of vocal supremacy. It is only by such comparisons that we can convey an idea of what is beneath examination. The orchestra scrambled coarsely along, to keep pace with the singers—still more to keep them together. This was not effected: the lady and gentlemen did not indeed, escape from the bars, but (within their limit) managed the utmost possible amount of independent motion. The conductor's foot is a new instrument in our Opera band. Spoilt, however, as the music of 'Ernani' was, we recognize the work as an opera to be superior to either 'Nabucco' or 'I Lombardi.' The concerted slow movement in the first *finale*, and the duett in the second act, won *encores*, owing to their attractiveness as compositions. We are glad, in a desolate state of things like the present, to see in the bills the name of Madame Castellan, as shortly coming:—the reports of her death, having proved, as we hoped, a mistake, if not a fabrication.

Musical Gossip.—The amount of interesting sacred performances increases. Reserving (it may be) a word or two on the *Anthem Concert*, at Exeter Hall, held last evening, and the essay at Mendelssohn's 'Lobgesang,' to be made by the students of the *Royal Academy*, this morning, at their first Concert—we may notice that Mr. Gantter's Lecture on the Ecclesiastical Music of Italy, already announced, was delivered at the Music Hall, Store-street, on Tuesday last. The lecturer traced the progress and developement of Roman Catholic music, from the simple and primitive Gregorian Chant, to the ornate and operatic 'Stabat' of Rossini. The illustrations were rendered by Mr. and Mrs. W. Seguin, Miss Duval, Mr. Ray, and Chorus. Mr. Oliver May presided at the organ. So very good was some of the *solo* singing at this cheap and unpretending entertainment (not to dwell for an instant on the interest of the music as a historical series, and the intrinsic beauty of the specimens), that we cannot but, in justice to English audiences and English professors, invite all who have any artistic discrimination to compare the rational pleasure of such an evening—the price of the admission inclusive—with the pastime to be derived from the same Tuesday's Opera performances, as elsewhere reported,—apart from the entertainment of admiring arabesques, and amber satin curtains. Let no one capable of drawing the parallel sneer henceforth at the *dillettantism* of Bloomsbury and its dependencies!

A line must announce that *M. Mühlenfeldt's* first *Soirée* and *Miss Dinah Farmer's* Concert, were held on Wednesday—the latter with the rarity of an orchestra. This, too, will be amended, ere many years are past—so soon as some conductor shall arise, with views sufficiently comprehensive, and enterprise sufficiently indefatigable.

The musical news of Paris and the Continent does not amount to anything very brilliant. Ere another seven days pass, we shall possibly have learned the fate of M. Félicien David's second *Cantata*, the 'Moïse,' which was to be represented this week. At the fifth Concert of the *Conservatoire*, the novelty most to the purpose (according to our judgment) was a Symphony in F minor, by Onslow. This ought to be heard here; and will, when the somewhat unreasonable exclusiveness of our Philharmonic audience in favour of a very few authors shall have been expanded into greater willingness to afford a moderate opening to new works. A M. Remusat performed a flute *Solo* with success. The 'Scaramuccia' of Ricci has been given at the Italian Opera, with Persiani, Brambilla, Derivis, Malvezzi, Tagliafico and Le-

blache—without success. Mademoiselle Marie Lavoye, sister to the brilliant *cantatrice* who has replaced Mesdames Damoreau Cinti and Thillon at the *Opéra Comique*, has made her first appearance at the same theatre, and is pronounced promising, especially as an actress.—The new theatre, already mentioned as granted to M. Alexandre Dumas, is to be called the *Théâtre Montpensier*,—the duration of the concession is for twelve years. After some consideration and some opposition, its repertory has been characterized somewhat extensively,—to embrace dramas in prose and verse, comedies, and works with new music and choruses:—and the house is to be opened on the 1st of April, 1847, at latest.

Since the days of the Proto-manager (some cunning monk be sure!) it has always been an approved device with those who had little in hand and less intention of spending, to amuse the public with some showy rumour, the fulfilment of which was so far uncertain, that non-fulfilment only excited pity for the disappointed speculator, and not anger against him who had announced more than he could perform. Thus, whenever tenors cannot be conveniently procured, the return of Rubini, we doubt not, will be announced for some seasons to come. Thus, also, in the present utter stagnation of matters at *L'Académie Royale*, at Paris, when the best-known new *prima donna* purveyed by M. Léon Pillet, during his visit to Italy, proves to be only Madame Eugenie Garcia, of our Princess's Theatre—the Parisians are adroitly diverted from dwelling on the fact by a whisper of a new Opera by Rossini. Now, seeing that it is notorious to all musicians that Meyerbeer is but withheld from giving the grand French Opera some new work by the inefficient state of its *corps*, it is drawing largely on our credence to believe that the fastidious and sarcastic recluse of Bologna will break his obstinate silence by way of serving as stopgap. Experience, however, has taught those whom it may concern that the "triple-headed monster" is not placable, in proportion as the morsel offered to stay his barkings or damp his appetite is substantial. Hence the audacity of the tale may assure its acceptance.

LYCEUM.—The nursery tale of 'Hop o' my Thumb' has been dramatized by Mr. Albert Smith, for the purpose of introducing to the stage *General Tom Thumb in propriâ personâ*. To criticize a piece of this nature would, of course, be idle; suffice it to say, that the General acquitted himself with tact, intelligence and humour, and was last Monday rewarded with more *bouquets* than he could well carry.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—*French Plays.*—While nothing is more piquant or "proper" than good French comic acting, few things are more insipid or impudent than the performance of the mediocrities of the *vaudeville* stage.

A merry eye, a passing pleasing tongue,

will often promote their owner to a point of favour, at which clear-sightedness is lost; and a lady, because she is attractive, is, therefore, credited with dramatic power. Nor are such confusions likely to be corrected on this side of the water, where the language of the stranger (less perfectly understood than it is pretended,) is allowed to throw a mantle of protection over much that is artistically valueless. These truths we have always felt to be eminently applicable in the case of Madame Doche. Her popularity and her prettiness were one; and now that the latter shows signs of being—ahem!—*modified* by Time, we fancy she will hardly be able to sustain her place very long as a "star" of the minor theatres. The second clause of our remark leads us to propound as a fact worthy of Mr. Mitchell's consideration, that English ladies would hardly go to see certain pieces in the repertory of M. Félix, such as 'Un Client' and 'Porthos'—were they represented in English. We think too highly of the manager of the French Plays, to believe that the above hint need to be often repeated.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Academy of Sciences.—March 9.—A note on the subject of the Electrical Girl was read on behalf of the committee appointed by the Academy, consisting of MM. Arago, Becquerel, Isidore, Geoffroy St. Hilaire, Babinet, Roger, and Pariset; which was to the following effect:—"It had been said that Mademoiselle Cottin exercised a repulsive action of great intensity on bodies of all kinds, when touched by any portion of her garments. It was even asserted that *guéridons* were overthrown by the simple contact of a silk thread in her hands. No appreciable effect of the kind manifested itself before the Committee.—In the narrative communicated to the Academy, it is related that a magnetized needle, submitted to the influence of the young girl's arm, made rapid oscillations in the first instance, and finally became stationary in a direction away from the magnetic meridian. In presence of the Committee, a needle, delicately suspended, experienced, under the circumstances assumed, no displacement whatever, either permanent or momentary.—M. Tauchou believed that Mademoiselle Cottin had the faculty of distinguishing the north from the south pole of a magnet, by simply touching them with her fingers. The Committee satisfied itself by numerous and varied experiments that the young girl in question possesses no such faculty.—The Committee need not carry further the enumeration of these abortive attempts. It will confine itself to stating further, that the only one of the phenomena announced which was realized in the presence of its members, was that of abrupt and violent movements communicated to the chairs on which the young girl sat down. Serious suspicions having arisen as to the manner in which these effects were produced, the Committee determined to submit them to a careful examination; and openly declared that the object of its examination would be to discover the part which a secret and skilful use of the hands or feet might have in the matter. From that moment, the Committee were assured that the attractive and repulsive faculty had departed, and that the members should have notice when it returned. Many days have elapsed; and the Committee have had no such intimation,—although they have learnt that Mdlle. Cottin is daily produced in salons, where she repeats her experiments. Under these circumstances, the Committee is of opinion that the communications transmitted to the Academy on the subject of Mdlle. Cottin should be considered as if they had never been received."

Petrified Forest.—I venture to draw your attention to a subject of some interest, which was noticed in your number for January 31st [*ante*, page 130], "On the Petrified Forest near Cairo," by Dr. Bulst. In a copy of an ancient *Hindu* Map of "Misva-sthau," or, "Gupta-sthau," from the Puranas,—of which you will find a copy in the third vol. of the 'Asiatic Researches,'—you will see that both sides of the Nile, as well as the Delta, are represented as being covered by a forest "of thorny-trees." Of what period this map may be, when this forest was destroyed, and how these trees became "silicified," are subjects on which I am not inclined to enter,—though I think the latter *may* be more easily explained than appears in your statement.—Yours, &c.,

W. B. T.

The Hurricane in Scotland.—The following details regarding the hurricane have been supplied by Professor Nichol, of the Glasgow Observatory;—"I have now had experience of a good many storms here; but certainly none of them at all equalled in fury the gale of this morning, (March 4). The facts, as observed at this Observatory, are the following:—About 1 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon the barometer began to fall. It was then 29·156 (corrected per temperature), and it fell very gradually, by a small quantity each hour, so that at midnight it stood at 28·980. The wind was not high as yet. Towards the evening it blew fresh, but nothing more. The subsequent occurrences are too important to be passed over with only a general notice, and I therefore give them in a table:—

4th March. Hour.	Height of Barometer.	Force of Wind.	Direction of Wind.
1 A.M.	28·944	6·—	S.
2 —	—·855	10·—	S.
3 —	—·779	12·—	S.
4 —	—·705	23·—	S.
5 —	—·628	28·—	S.
6 —	—·566	29·—	S.
7 —	—·546	30·—	S.
8 —	—·526	37·—	S. slightly W.
9 —	—·480	45·—	S. by W.
10 —	—·549	—	S. by W.
11 —	—·680	—	S.W.
12 —	—·793	—	S.W.

The temperature at 8 in the morning was 47° 12′ of Fahrenheit, at 9 it was 45° 5′, and at 10, 46° ·04′. The force of the wind in the foregoing table is expressed in pressure of pounds' weight on a square foot. The record of force ceases at 9 o'clock, as the tempest then broke the part of the anemometer which indicates it. * * I never have known a storm in which the power of the gust was so persistent; the pencil of the anemometer remaining at its full height for a very considerable space of time. The dynamic effects of the wind here have been quite equal to what the indications of the anemometer would prepare us for. * * The stand of the Herschelian telescope was blown down under peculiar circumstances. It was secured by strong ropes to heavy stones buried in the ground. The rope, attaching it to one of the stones, broke; but the other stone, a block two feet square, and about a foot in thickness, was torn from the earth and tossed 10 yards from its place! The magnetic house is levelled to the ground; but, what is most strange, its floor, consisting of very heavy beams, has been driven some six yards from where it was."—*Glasgow Argus.*—The following particulars are from the *Perth Constitutional*: "The almost unprecedented gale of Wednesday week has been severely felt among the Highland and other plantations. * * A large number of trees were blown down along the east bank of the Tay opposite Perth. At Scone, wood to the value of more than 1,000*l.* shared the same fate. At Moncrieff and Dupplin the havoc was immense. From Castlehuntly, Logiealmond, Lynedoch, and other places, we have accounts of great devastation, at the last mentioned, a roup of wood had been advertised for that day, but the number of trees blown down or uprooted was about five times that of those marked off for sale. The fine woods about Methven Castle have also sustained extensive damage. But the forests about Dunkeld have suffered perhaps more severely than any. There is scarcely a standing tree on Craig-y-barns, and Craig-Vinian is little better. The number broken by the wind, or torn up by the roots in that neighbourhood, is variously estimated from 20,000 to 30,000."

Libraries.—In the *Athenæum* of last Saturday [*ante*, p. 268], it is stated, in speaking of the Royal Library at Stockholm, that "there is one peculiarity which is worthy the attention of librarians in other places: each class of books has a distinct colour of binding." I beg to inform you that this system is adopted with respect to the books in the Library of the Royal Society,—and is found to be most useful.—I am, &c.,

C. R. WELD, Librarian R.S.

Royal Society, March 16, 1846.

Navigation of the Seine.—It is probable that Rouen will, some day, be the port of Paris. To bring the sea to the capital, by means of a great ship canal, or at least obtain a port nearer than Havre, has long been the dream of French governments; and the present has obtained from the Chamber a grant of three millions of francs for a purpose which is a step, though as yet only a moderate one, in that direction. This is the removal of the shifting bar of sand, accumulated by the meeting at Rouen of the marine and fluvial tides,—and moving over a space of twenty kilomètres, from Quillebœuf to Villequier, with a spring tide or with a flood in the river. This bank has, hitherto, opposed obstacles deemed invincible to the making that city the terminus of a considerable navigation, or a stage towards the capital. Vessels drawing three mètres of water can cross only during six or seven days in each month; and the mere coasting barges of the Gascon Gulf can clear it only on two hundred and twenty out of the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. The committee to whom it was referred by the Chamber to inquire into the possibility of removing this impediment, has pronounced the opinion that Art must strive in vain against it:—but M. Arago thinks otherwise; and refers to the bar at Calcutta, and that at the mouth of the Amazon river, in support of his opinion. Taking the hint from these, where the obstacle is evaded by those who keep the middle of the stream, he thinks that, by confining the bed of the Seine within longitudinal dykes, and so compelling it to wear for itself a deeper bed, a prodigious force of current will be produced, which will sweep a passage through the bar, and keep it clear in future. So important to the interests of Paris is this solution of the problem, that it is considered worth a costly experiment; and the Minister having asked two millions for the purpose, the Chamber gave him three, by an amendment of its own.—Meantime, France—which would buy at any price a river like the Thames between the sea and its metropolis—is spending large sums on the utilizing of the Seine

in other parts of its course. A vote of 10,300,000 fr. has been devoted to that object, in the distance between Rouen and Paris; and not less than 26,800,000 francs, in all, have been granted for the amelioration of its current from Nogent to the sea.—We may add, that the Chamber has given considerable sums for the improvement of its lesser streams, and the formation of the natural basins in their neighbourhood into reservoirs, for purposes of irrigation on a large scale.

Proposed Bridge over the Tyne at Newcastle.—The *Newcastle Journal* gives the following description of this magnificent structure:—"It will extend from Castle Garth to the high ground on the south side of the river. There will be two roadways, one on a level with the Castle Garth, for carriages and foot passengers, and the other at an elevation of 22 feet above it, with three lines of railway, for locomotives. The carriage road will be 1,380 feet in length, on a straight line, and the locomotive way will be immediately above, with the exception of a space at each end. The locomotive line diverging at a point about 270 feet from each end to the west on the north side, to run into the general station to be built at the Forth, and to the east on the south side, to form a junction with the main line southward. These diverging portions of the locomotive way will be supported on handsome colonnades, each consisting of 20 metal pillars, which will give to the entire structure a magnificent finish. The bridge itself will consist of six river arches, with four land arches on each side, the former 124 feet 10 inches, and the latter 36 feet 3 inches span; the land arches diminishing in altitude from the foundation upwards, corresponding with the declivitous banks of the river basin. These arches will be supported on piers of solid stone masonry, and will be constructed of cast iron. The piers will be 48 feet by 16 feet 6 inches in thickness, and in extreme height about 131 feet from the foundation; having an opening in the centre through each, so that, to the spectator at a distance, the bridge will appear to rest on pillars, and will present nothing of that massive character which might be expected in a structure of such gigantic proportions. The roadway for carriages and foot passengers will be 35 feet above the level of high-water mark, suspended by rods from cast-iron arches, springing from the piers at the carriage road level, and the railroad will rest on the crown of these arches, being supported also by stays from the arches at points of the space between each suspensor. The carriage way will occupy the centre of the lower bridge, being 20 feet wide, and it will be separated from the footpath on each side by a row of light metal pillars; the footpaths being each six feet wide, with handsome balustrading on the outside, about four feet high. The locomotive way will be protected by a similar row of balustrading. The whole of this part of the bridge will be constructed of cast iron. The approaches to the carriage road and footpaths will be through a grand triumphal entrance on each side of the river, in three proportionate arches, forming a splendid mass of solid masonry; which will be surmounted by a statue,—that at the north side of the river being appropriately designed for the immortal parent of the railway system, the eminent engineer, Mr. George Stephenson, who is destined thus to receive the homage of an admiring people in the locality of his birth."

Indian Cobalt.—A new field of cobalt has been discovered in the East Indies, in the mountainous country of Rajpootanah,—a district already celebrated for its mineral wealth, and principally for its coppers in the state of sulphur and sulphate and its alums. It is in one of the copper-mines that this cobalt is found—lying abundantly in the state of sulphur of great purity. It is accompanied by only one other substance,—pyrites of iron, highly magnetic, and easily separated from it by a loadstone of moderate power. These it contains in the proportion of 9·22 per cent. The remainder of the mineral consists wholly of pyrites of cobalt, of the specific weight of 5·45 and composition following:—cobalt 64·64, sulphur 35·36. The Indian jewellers already use it advantageously for colouring gold with a rose tint of great delicacy.

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26	2 0 3	1 16 2	63	7 4 0	6 9 6
30	2 5 0	1 19 9	66	8 4 0	7 10 8
33	2 8 6	2 2 10	70	10 4	9 7 6
36	2 13 0	2 6 4	73	11 16 2	11 2 6
40	2 19 9	2 12 0	76	.. .. ..	13 1 9
43	3 5 3	2 17 2	80	.. .. ..	15 12 10

Prospectuses with the rates of premium for the intermediate ages, and every information, may be had at the Head Office in York, or of any of the Agents.

W. L. NEWMAN, Actuary and Secretary, York.

London Agent for the Life Department,
Mr. GEO. BURBIDGE, 2, Moorgate-street, City.

NORTH BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY. Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament. Capital 1,000,000*l.*, fully subscribed. Offices, 4, New Bank-buildings, and 10, Pall Mall East.

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FRANCIS WARDEN, Esq., Director H.E.I.C., Vice-Chairman.
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LIFE ASSURANCE.

The system adopted by this Company gives to the assured every advantage Life Assurance is capable of affording, and the rapid progress the Company's Life Business has made, and is making, shows that it is duly appreciated by the public.

At 31st December, 1844, the sum insured by subsisting policies was 3,155,255*l.*; the annual revenue 90,202*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*; and the accumulated premiums 442,393*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

Assurances may be effected either with or without participation in the surplus.

Those who pay the participating rate share in the profits to the extent of four-fifths, or 80 per cent., without incurring the responsibility of mutual assurance.

At the last investigation, 31st December, 1844, the Bonus or addition made to the Participating Policies was at the rate of 1*l.* 9*s.* per cent. on the sum insured for each premium paid during the septennial period, reckoning previous bonuses as sums insured, and as such entitled to participate.

Thus, for example, a Policy of 5000*l.*, having
add, 6*l.* of previously vested additions, was
ranked for £5,816 2 6
And had a further addition made to it of 610 18 0
And will, according to the principle above mentioned,
be ranked at next division of Profits as a Policy for £6,429 0 6

Tables of increasing premiums have been formed on a plan peculiar to this Company, whereby assurance may be effected for the whole of life, the premium commencing very low, and gradually increasing during the first five years, after which a uniform premium is paid during the remainder of life.

Specimen of the Tables.

Premium for Assuring 100*l.*

Age.	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Fourth Year.	Fifth Year.	Remainder of Life.
30	£1 3 9	£1 5 2	£1 6 8	£1 3 4	£1 10 0	£2 10 5
40	1 1 10	1 3 9	1 5 10	1 18 1	2 0 6	3 8 3

This table is not only suitable to those who, from the prospect of an increasing income, or other circumstances, prefer paying a smaller sum during the first few years, but is also decidedly the best mode of insuring with the view of securing the remayment of temporary loans. It is preferable to a period policy, as it may be continued to the end of life, without requiring new certificates of health or incurring a higher rate of premium.

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A prospectus may be obtained of the Secretary, Henry T. Thomson, Esq., 4, New Bank-buildings; or of the Actuary, 10, Pall Mall East. JOHN KING, Actuary.

NOTICE TO EQUITABLE POLICY HOLDERS.

UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, No. 8, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, London.

The attention of the Equitable Policy Holders is particularly called to the Half Credit Scales of Premium of this company, by which table the bonus to be declared at the next investigation in January, 1850, may be secured at a present annual payment of one-half the rates charged by other companies. In the event of death, the sum insured will be paid, less the amount of premiums on credit. Should the life insured survive the declaration of the bonus, the policy may be allowed to lapse, and the company will renounce all claim for the half premiums which may be due thereon; or in the event of the party being at that time in bad health, the policy can be kept up by commencing to pay the full premium of the age as when first accepted. The above plan, originating with this company, was found peculiarly advantageous at the last equitable division in 1840, when it was largely adopted, and many of the policies then effected are still in force, and large bonuses have been added to them on the scale of the following tables:—

Sum Assured.	Time Assured.	Sum added to Policy.
£5,000.....	6 years 10 months	£683 6 6
5,000.....	6 years	600 0 0
5,000.....	4 years	400 0 0
5,000.....	2 years	200 0 0

Prospectuses and every information may be obtained on application to the resident directors, Edward Boyd, Esq and F. Lennox Boyd, Esq., at the offices, No. 8, Waterloo-place. London.

THE DISSENTERS' and GENERAL LIFE and FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY. Instituted 1837. Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 3 Vict. c. 20; 62, King William-street, London Bridge, London; 21, St. David-street, Edinburgh; 6, King-street, Queen-square, Bristol. Capital, One Million.

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And in the LIFE DEPARTMENT they continue to transact all business relating to Life Assurances, Annuities, and Family Endowments, upon the most liberal terms consistent with sound principles and public security.

LOANS also are granted on equitable terms to life assurers on life interests, satisfactory personal securities.

To all Agents and Solicitors, Auctioneers, and Surveyors, liberal allowances will be made.

By order of the Board,
THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

PELICAN LIFE INSURANCE OFFICE, 70, Lombard-street, and 57, Charing-cross, London. Established 1797.

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Auditors.

Emanuel Goodhart, Esq. | Thomas Hodgson, Esq.
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The Periodical Valuation of the Policies effected with this Company on the RETURN SYSTEM will be made after the 3rd of July, 1847, when an *equitable proportion* of the surplus premiums will be allotted to the Holder of every such Policy issued prior to that date.

The peculiar feature in the mode of division adopted by this Company consists in the *admission of every member* to participate in the surplus he has assisted to create.

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Prospectuses and every information may be obtained on application at the Offices as above, or to the Agents of the Company appointed in every City and principal Town in the Kingdom.

R. TUCKER, Secretary.

Under the Especial Patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen.

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JOSEPH C. BRETTELL, Secretary.

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